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Number of active CUC customers continue to drop. PAGE 6

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Should the optional services being provided to Medicaid beneficiaries be eliminated?

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BUSINESS

China's trade growth weakens amid economic slump. ➤ PAGE 13

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Dolphy, the Philippines' "King of Comedy," has died. ➤ PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE

Channing Tatum teases fans with the possibility of "Magic Mike" the musical. ➤ PAGE 21

House budget bill cuts funding for MVA, PSS, NMC, health services

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» House leadership wants bill passed today
» Minority wants more time to review

A fiscal year 2013 budget bill that the House leadership pre-filed yesterday afternoon slashed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's appropriations for many programs and agencies including those for the Marianas Visitors Authority, Public School System, Northern Marianas College, Tinian, Medicaid, and the Medical Referral Program but increased the Legislature's budget by $966,000.

These are based on the five-page summarized comparison of the governor's original and revised fiscal year 2013 budget submission versus the House leadership's original and final bill.

This final bill became the 36-page House Bill 17-313 that was pre-filed yesterday afternoon.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), main au-

See BUDGET on Page 4

FOR THE HOME OF THE MARIANAS MALLARD HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
DKK Inc. president Kim Hong Kyun shows yesterday afternoon the newly installed Garapan Elementary School sign that his company donated to the school. Kim said he guarantees that the treated wooden sign will last at least 20 years. DKK Inc. bagged a $120,000 contract from the Public School System to build a new concrete fence for the school, and the project is expected to be completed by Aug. 10, 2012.

Swift guilty verdict for Mirano

» Jury reaches verdict after less than an hour

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Mirano

A federal jury delivered yesterday a swift guilty verdict against Earl Eric Mirano for his role in a conspiracy to forge stale CNMI tax refund checks and cash them in grocery stores.

After deliberating for less than an hour, the 12 jurors unanimously reached a verdict finding Mirano guilty of conspiracy to commit bank fraud and bank fraud.

Mirano calmly stood beside his court-appointed counsel, Vicente Salas, when U.S. District Court courtroom deputy Tina Matsunaga read the verdict at 4:35pm.

See GUILTY on Page 4

Study: Sept. 11 most memorable TV moment

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack is by far the most memorable moment shared by television viewers during the past 50 years, a study released on Wednesday concluded.

The only thing that came close was President John F. Kennedy's assassination and its aftermath in 1963, but that was only for the people aged 55 and over who experienced those events as they happened instead of replayed as an historical artifact.

Sony Electronics and the Nielsen tele-

See MEMORABLE on Page 4

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Local

New bill seeks to legalize marijuana for medicinal use

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) will introduce today a new bill seeking to legalize marijuana for medicinal use only, the third legislation he has introduced to legalize "pot" use for medicinal and/or recreational purposes in the last few years. His previous bills were either killed by the Senate or gathered dust in committees.

"This is an updated bill, and I look forward to the governor signing it, since he has made a statement that he will support it if it's only for medicinal purpose. We have people, especially older ones, suffering from pain and marijuana could and would be a big help to them because their medical conditions are severe and resistant to conventional medicine," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

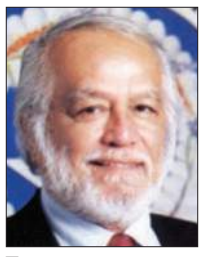
House Bill 17-311 or the Legalization of Medical Marijuana Act of 2012 was pre-filed on Friday.

"If you read the whole bill, you'd see that one can't have it unless you have a prescription. It will also be taxed, helping to generate revenue for the CNMI. No more than 1 ounce of marijuana is allowed," he said.

Torres said that based on studies, marijuana is a safe and effective treatment for dozens of conditions such as cancer, AIDS, multiple sclerosis, pain, migraines, glaucoma, and epilepsy.

In its five-page findings, the bill says this legislation "should not serve as a message to our youth that the Legislature condones drug abuse."

"We do not. We simply seek to allow physicians to prescribe it if needed, and to allow patients to use marijuana without societal stigma," it says.


Torres

The bill seeks to delete substances from 6 CMC section 2114 for the purpose of recognizing the now common and legal medicinal use of marijuana in the U.S.

Marijuana is the fourth most popular drug in the world, following alcohol, nicotine and caffeine, HB 17-311 says. It adds that recent trends in legislation indicate that the medicinal use of marijuana is becoming an acceptable practice subject to legal restrictions.

In the U.S., laws allow for medical marijuana in several jurisdictions with varying rules governing quantity of plants or usable medical marijuana.

Medicinal marijuana is legal in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Washington, D.C.

"By the time this legislation is enacted, more states are likely to have legalized marijuana in one form or another," the bill says.

It also says opponents of legalization of medical marijuana maintain that marijuana is a drug that is subject to abuse and that people who abuse it can hurt themselves and others. Opponents also point to the loss of federal funds and the danger presented by people under the influence who may work among others and operate equipment with trace amounts of marijuana in their systems.

The former Department of Public Health, now Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., in commenting on a previous bill legalizing marijuana for all purposes, said the CNMI DPH may lose over $10 million in federal grants should the marijuana legalization bill becomes law.

But Torres, in his bill, said one fact remains: Seriously ill individuals who suffer from AIDS, cancer, diabetes, glaucoma, and other conditions such as arthritis, migraine, menstrual cramps, alcohol, and opiate addiction, depression, and other debilitating mood disorders cannot obtain relief from marijuana without fear of arrest and imprisonment.

He said these individuals who find marijuana to be helpful are forced to do one of two things: live and suffer without marijuana or illegally obtain it at the risk of arrest and usually at a cost that reflects its illegal status.

Torres also said marijuana abuse is not nearly as harmful to an individual or to society as addictions to alcohol, tobacco, and caffeine.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) said he remains opposed to any marijuana legalization bill.

"I voted no before, I will vote no again to this one. My stance has not changed. The CNMI is not ready to face the negative consequences of legalizing marijuana for any reason. My main concern is control. How could you make sure that marijuana won't fall in the hands of our young people?" Sablan said.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), also one of those who voted "no" to a previous marijuana legalization bill, said he's most likely to vote "no" again to the new bill. He, however, said he has yet to read the new bill.

Torres said the United Nations' World Drug Report 2012 itself ranks the CNMI second on its list of countries with the highest annual rate of marijuana use, with 22.2 percent of the islands' population having smoked "pot." Palau ranked first with 24.2 percent, while Guam ranked third with 18.4 percent.

"We rank high in the United Nations list anyway. If you legalize marijuana for those who need it as medication, then you help not only them but also the economy," he said.

AT A SENATE SESSION HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), left, asks administration officials questions on the governor's revised fiscal year 2013 budget of $114 million during a special session on Monday. Looking on are Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan).

Faris grants Fund counsels' request for more time

U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division designated judge Robert J. Faris has granted the request of the NMI Retirement Fund's counsels for more time to reply to objections raised in their and other counsels' demand for payment of $844,650.93 in professional services and reimbursement of expenses.

In his order issued Tuesday, Faris only stated that the reply extension motion is granted.

Jeremy B. Coffey, the Fund's Boston-based lawyer, asked the court to issue an order extending by two business days—until July 23, 2012 (Hawaii time)—the deadline for filing replies to objections to pending fee and expense reimbursement applications that they filed.

Coffey said that Faris, in his memorandum decision dated June 13, 2012, required such applications to be filed by June 29, 2012, with parties in interest to receive notice and at least 14 days within which to object.

Coffey said that, on July 13, 2012, after consultation with the U.S. Trustee and counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, the Fund filed its motion seeking to establish notice procedures related to the pending fee applications.

The lawyer said that Faris granted that motion on July 5 and the Fund then transmitted notice of the pending fee applications with an objection deadline of July 19.

Coffey said the hearing on the pending fee applications, if held, is scheduled for July 27.

He said Local Rule provides that replies to objections may be filed not less than seven days prior to a hearing on the matter, in this case on July 20.

Coffey said by this motion, their law firm requests a short extension of until July 23 by which applicants must file replies to objections to fee applications.

Coffey said their law firm believes the extension will allow the applicants to better address any concerns that might be raised in objections and to provide meaningful responses, in advance of any hearing on the fee applications.

Coffey said the Committee's counsel and the U.S. Trustee indicated they did not object to the extension.

Coffey and his law firm, Brown Rudnick, is demanding payment of $719,293.50 for professional services plus reimbursement of $46,644.32 in expenses, for a total of $765,937.82.

Braddock Huesman, the Fund's Saipan-based lawyer is demanding $9,201 in attorney's fees plus reimbursement in the amount of $2,046, for a total of $11,247.

Colin Thompson, the Saipan-based counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, is demanding compensation in the amount of $1,960 plus $382.50 in cost expenses for a total of $2,341.50.

Don Jeffrey Gelber, the Hawaii-based counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, seeks payment of $65,124.61 in compensation for his and his law firm's participation in the case.

This brings the attorneys' fees and expenses to a total of $844,650.93.

The committee's chairman and members are also demanding reimbursement of over $300 for long-distance telephone charges and postal charges. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DUE TO INCREASING NUMBER OF SINGLE PARENTS IN COLLEGE

DCCA expands child care program client base

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

An informal survey conducted by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs showed that the number of single parents who are either working or studying in college has increased—a factor that the agency used to expand the client base of one of its programs.

DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao announced yesterday that more clients will be served under the department's Child Care Program in fiscal year 2013, which starts on Oct. 1.

The CNMI Child Care program is a federally funded initiative that provides a yearly grant of $1.9 million. This federal fund, sourced from the U.S. Child Care Development Block Grant Program, is used by the Commonwealth in paying for services rendered by child care centers.

This fiscal year, the program serves about 433 children on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Starting Oct. 1, the client base will expand to over 600 children because DCCA will open 100 new slots and an additional 80 slots specifically to cover the increasing number of single parents who are studying at the Northern Marianas College.

For fiscal year 2013, Faisao disclosed that 433 renewal applications were approved. The additional slots, he added, will be announced on July 24.

According to the official, the child care program covers 26 child care centers, 21 family day care centers, and a home care provider.

Early this year, participating child care centers complained of delays in the issuance of their subsidies, affecting their operation.

Faisao told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that subsidy up to April has been released to the centers, while subsidy for May is now being processed. He revealed that total subsidies he signed for May is $55,000 for child care centers and $60,000 for other providers.

He admitted that there have been some delays in the release of some checks but denied that it has reached up to 45 or 60 days, as earlier claimed by the providers.

Faisao explained that pursuant to its policy, DCCA has 19 working days to complete the payment review from vendors. After that, it will be routed to the Department of Finance, Procurement and Supply, then down to the Treasury Division for final assessment and check issuance.

Saipan Tribune learned that for fiscal year 2012-2014, the CNMI child care program is allocated $1.9 million. Of the amount, 5 percent is allowed for administrative costs, 8 percent for quality initiative programs, 8 percent for quality expansion, 5 percent for infant and toddler, and 1 percent for school age. The bulk of the fund, 73 percent, is for the program's certification.

Fitial urged to endorse Tinian again as preferred divert base

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Tinian Joint Leadership said the environmental impact study that identified Saipan as the "preferred Alternative 1" and Tinian as "preferred Alternative 2" for a divert or contingency airfield for the U.S. Air Force is "flawed" and "outdated."

» 'Air Force report flawed, outdated'

Tinian officials asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to once again endorse Tinian as the prime preferred site for an alternate airfield for the U.S. Air Force in the event that access to Guam's Andersen Air Force Base is limited or denied.

They hope that Fitial, as chairman of the CNMI Military Integrated Management Council, will agree and incorporate their comments in his response to the draft EIS.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz provided Fitial with a copy of the Tinian Joint Leadership's position paper endorsing Tinian as the site for a divert airfield, although Tinian leaders said they welcome such facility anywhere in the CNMI.

"It is unfortunate that those who created this EIS did not take into consideration either your comments or ours given during the first round of scoping meetings and correctly identify Tinian as the best long-term site for an Air Force divert base in the Northern Mariana Islands," Dela Cruz told Fitial in a July 5 letter, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

In his letter, the mayor told the governor that the EIS "fails to recognize the primacy of the Covenant and its technical agreement which provided two-thirds of the island of Tinian for future military development."

"The EIS is also outdated. It does not reflect the improvements that have been made to Tinian dock or those that are programmed for the immediate future. Nor does it sufficiently recognize the impact that eight weeks of air operations per year would have on the residents of San Antonio, Koblerville, and San Vicente villages," Dela Cruz told Fitial.

Tom Linden, MIMC coordinator, said the governor certainly would prefer Tinian but would welcome any initiatives in the CNMI.

Fitial left for the U.S. on a two-week official business trip on Monday. He is expected to be back on July 23 or 25.

The comment period for the draft EIS ends on July 23.

Dela Cruz, in a phone interview, said he hopes the governor will really take into consideration the Tinian Joint Leadership's sentiments when he submits comments to the draft EIS on or before the deadline. MIMC has not made a final decision yet.

Why Tinian is 'best'

The Tinian Joint Leadership is composed of the Tinian mayor, the Tinian Legislative Delegation, and the Tinian Municipal Council.

In their four-page position paper, they said the establishment of an Air Force divert base in the CNMI is a welcome addition to the CNMI economy—whether it is constructed on Saipan where an additional 40-some acres of land would have to be leased from the CNMI and provide only 87 percent operational resiliency to the Air Force, or on Tinian where military leased lands are already available at no additional cost to the U.S. and where the Air Force can obtain 100 percent of its operational resiliency in case of need.

"However, the U.S. Congress and higher echelon U.S. Air Force decision makers should be aware that the draft EIS for a divert base in the Northern Mariana Islands is flawed both fundamentally and technically with regard to the Tinian option," the Tinian leaders said.

They said there are significant costs that have not been clearly identified in either the EIS of the executive summary, and there are significant recent capital improvement developments on Tinian that have not been identified.

Tinian leaders said the draft EIS did not give sufficient importance to the transportation of ammunition from Tanapag harbor in northern Saipan to Saipan International Airport on the very southern end of Saipan.

"Bombs would have to be transported through the heavily populated commercial and residential districts of western Saipan before reaching the airport. On the other hand, transporting ammunition from Tinian harbor to West Field International Airport would pass through a very lightly populated area to nearby West Field at a much shorter distance approximately 1.5 miles," they said.

Tinian leaders said the draft EIS also flies in the face of the congressional mandate to streamline the U.S. Department of Defense by establishing inter-service operations.

This September, there will be a joint Army-Navy training operation at North Field on Tinian.

At about the same time, the Marine Expeditionary Force will conduct a joint Navy-Marine Corps training operation at North Field.

Most significantly, the recent Marine Air Group-12 exercise at both West Field, establishing restraining wires for F-18 hot refueling operations, and at North Field, establishing an expeditionary air field, demonstrated Tinian's ability to support major operations, Tinian officials said.

"Despite all this joint inter-service activity on the part of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, the Air Force-created draft EIS for a divert base purports to separate Air Force operations from the other services currently taking advantage of the joint-use opportunities available on existing Tinian leased lands," they added.

Tinian leaders spoke about Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino which has 412 rooms and with a total capacity of well over 824, more than enough to support the personnel recommended in the draft EIS.

Matua Bay Resort also broke ground recently on a new golf course along Nassarino Beach on the southwestern coast of Tinian.

"The draft EIS goes to lengths to discuss the 'dilapidated' condition of the Tinian harbor and the Tinian dump. Currently, the dock at Tinian harbor is receiving extensive repairs, including a new sea wall, bollards, and fenders," they said.

They added that new equipment is being bought to maintain the existing dump and design work is already at 30 percent complete for a new solid waste transfer station and a new landfill.

Tinian leaders said Tinian's population is not 5,000 people as stated in the draft EIS. They said it is barely 3,000.

"We encourage you to rethink the real purpose behind the construction of the divert base and recognize that utilizing the existing military land lease on Tinian gives the United States Air Force the best opportunity to fulfill its mission, now and in the future," the Tinian leaders said.

The 110-page "Draft Environmental Impact Assessment for Proposed Divert Activities and Exercises, Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands" was released

See DIVERT on Page 4

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Suspected 'ice' supplier falls; store owner arrested for alleged sexual assault

Police arrested Tuesday a suspected dealer of crystal methamphetamine or "ice" and a store owner accused of sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl in separate incidents on Saipan.

Jun Fang, 36, and Jin Song Lin, 47, were taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for their bail hearing.

Fang, also known as Jun, was arrested for trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Lin was arrested for sexual assault in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $60,000 cash bail for Lin and $30,000 cash bail for Fang.

Camacho set the preliminary hearing in both cases on July 19 at 9am.

Police detective Dennis Reyes stated in his report that Fang is the suspected supplier of Changfeng Zhang whom they arrested on Friday for selling "ice."

Reyes said that during monitored buy-walk operations, Zhang entered a car where he got his "ice" supply.

Reyes said the surveillance team followed the car and saw Jun, whom they later identified as Fang, get down from the vehicle.

In the sexual assault case, police officer Rudolfo Hermosilla stated in his report that police officers responded to a store in Chalan Kanoa Tuesday afternoon after receiving a call about a sexual assault incident.

Hermosilla said preliminary investigation showed that a girl entered the store to buy cookies. Lin allegedly offered the girl a soda then hugged her and touched her breast.

Police said the surveillance camera in the store caught the incident.

Lin was then arrested. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MEMORABLE

From Page 1

vision research company collaborated on the survey. They ranked TV moments for their impact not just by asking people if they remembered watching them, but if they recalled where they watched it, who they were with and whether they talked to other people about what they had seen.

By that measure, the Sept. 11 tragedy was nearly twice as impactful as the second-ranked moment, which was the coverage of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Minutes after the first airplane struck New York's World Trade Center on a late summer morning, television networks began covering the events continuously and stayed with them for days.

The other biggest TV events, in order, were the 1995 verdict in O.J. Simpson's murder trial, the Challenger space shuttle explosion in 1986 and the death of Osama bin Laden last year, the survey found.

Sony was interested in the study for clues on consumer interests and behaviors and found "that television is really the grandmother of all the social devices," said Brian Siegel, vice president of television business for the company.

Going into the study, Siegel said he had anticipated that entertainment events like the final episode of "M-A-S-H" (ranked No. 42), the Beatles' appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show" (No. 43) and the "Who shot J.R.?" episode of "Dallas" (No. 44) would rank higher. Instead, television coverage of news events made the biggest difference in viewers' lives.

The Super Bowl is annually the most-watched TV event, with this year's game between the N.Y. Giants and New England Patriots setting an all-time record with 111 million viewers. The memories don't seem to linger, however: the top-ranked Super Bowl Sunday event in Sony's study came in 2004 and had nothing to do with football. It was Janet Jackson's wardrobe malfunction (No. 26).

Men and women agreed on the three most impactful television events—Sept. 11, Katrina and Simpson. After that, some of the interests diverged.

For example, women ranked the 1997 funeral of Princess Diana as the fourth most memorable event, while men put that at No. 23. Women ranked last year's death of Whitney Houston at No. 5, with men judging it No. 21.

Similarly, the 2003 bombing of Baghdad at the start of the Iraq War was seen as the No. 14 most impactful moment by men, and No. 37 among women. Men were also far more struck by boxer Mike Tyson biting off a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear.

The passage of time has also diluted some moments once thought as unforgettable, simply because succeeding generations have no personal memory of them. Man's first moon landing in 1969 ranked No. 21.

Age also made a big difference in the survey. JFK's assassination was the second-most impactful TV event among people 55 and over, while for those between 18 and 34, it was the death of Osama bin Laden.

Young people also ranked Barack Obama's Election Night speech in 2008 at No. 3, while that didn't move older viewers quite as much (No. 24).

Simply because of their age, events like the JFK assassination, President Nixon's resignation and the moon landing didn't register at all among viewers 18 to 34. The oldest event to appear in their rankings was the 1980 shooting of John Lennon.

The study was based on an online questionnaire of 1,077 adults selected as a scientific sample from among Nielsen's panel of people measured for television ratings. It was conducted between Feb. 15-17 this year.

The study could be a good baseline for future looks at how television impacts viewers, said Paul Lindstrom, senior vice president for custom research at Nielsen.

"I'd like to see these done on a periodic basis going forward," he said.

GUILTY

From Page 1

The jurors began their deliberation at 3:25pm. They sent a note to the court at 4:03pm, informing the judge that they had reached a verdict.

The trial began on July 2.

Mirano will be sentenced on Oct. 19, 2012 at 9am. He will remain in detention until his sentencing.

Salas refused to comment on the verdict. U.S. attorney Stephen Leon Guerrero said that their public information office in Guam will issue a statement.

Leon Guerrero

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona presided over the case.

When asked by *Saipan Tribune* how they reached the speedy verdict, the jury's foreperson replied, "It's an easy case" as all the evidence were laid out well.

On Tuesday, Manglona acquitted Mirano's co-defendant, Mohammad Jahangir Miah, for lack of corroborating evidence. He was represented by court-appointed counsel Colin Thompson.

In his closing arguments yesterday, Leon Guerrero said that Mirano did not have the Federal Bureau of Investigation's blessing when he committed his criminal conduct.

"The FBI does not condone criminal behavior," Leon Guerrero stressed, adding that FBI special agent Haejun Park did not give Mirano authorization to cash those checks.

Four cashiers testified about Mirano cashing the checks.

"The physical evidence never lies," he said. "Whose name was on the checks? Who cashed the checks? Who benefited from the checks? Was there any authorization to cash the checks? Who admitted cashing the checks?"

In his closing arguments, Salas said that Mirano did not act with criminal intent because he believed he was helping the FBI investigate the scam.

"He [Mirano] risked his life not once but three times," said Salas, referring to the FBI's installation of audio and video surveillance devices on Mirano to record the alleged transactions between Mirano and Miah.

The defense lawyer said that as early as November 2011, Mirano has been communicating with FBI special agent Park through emails and phone calls.

Salas said that Mirano was working with Park and two other FBI special agents in this tax refund scam.

Salas said that Mirano was cashing the checks given to him by the source (Miah) because he was building a case for the FBI.

Salas said that a day after Mirano emailed Park that he had information and that it's big, Mirano cashed two checks to gain confidence with the "source."

Salas said that Mirano sent another email to Park on Jan. 26, 2012, but the agent did not reply.

The defense lawyer said four more checks were cashed between Jan. 28 and Feb. 1, 2012.

Salas said the amount of the four checks were bigger than the previous two checks because Mirano had already gained the confidence of the "source."

Salas said that Mirano in fact gave his identification through his passport to the cashiers and even provided his contact number.

Salas pointed out that the total amount of checks involved is only over $2,000 and Mirano got only 10 percent or $250 and that it's not even cash but grocery items.

Salas said his client only followed the script and the plan to build the case for the FBI.

"This case is not about greed. It's more about the power of the FBI," he said.

Salas said the FBI investigation failed as the targeted person was not caught.

According to the FBI, during the March 19, 2002, meeting, Miah frisked Mirano for possible recording equipment and found the recording wires hidden underneath his shirt.

When Mirano sent a text to agent Park that Miah had found the wires, Park instructed Mirano to leave Miah's house immediately.

Park stated that he and another special agent proceeded to Miah's residence out of fear of possible destruction of evidence related to the criminal activity in question.

BUDGET

From Page 1

thor of the $114-million budget bill, said yesterday that the leadership plans to pass the measure this afternoon. The session is at 2:30pm.

"We have the votes to pass it, and give the Senate ample time to review the bill," Basa said in an interview after a committee meeting.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) said the minority bloc is aware that it will boil down to the votes but they are hoping that the leadership would not rush to pass the budget bill today without giving the full body a chance to review it for days.

"I applaud [Rep.] Basa and the rest of the leadership for working on this bill. But I would want to hear first about the logic behind the decreases in appropriations for critical agencies compared to the governor's revised submission. I want to understand how the leadership ended up with this bill. Maybe they are seeing something we're not seeing or know something we don't know," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune*.

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) echoed Yumul's sentiment. "I hope they allow for time to review the bill and not railroad through [today]," he said.

This early, senators are appalled by the budget bill but would wait for it to pass the House before fully commenting on it.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said it's "quite interesting they will go to that extent," upon learning that the House leadership budget bill cut the governor's revised budget for Tinian by $471,093—from $5.037 million to $4.566 million.

Fitial's revised budget for Rota was $4.371 million, but the House leadership raised it to $4.566 million to the same level as Tinian's.

The House leadership maintained the governor's budget for Saipan and Northern Islands at $1.543 million.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) said he has reservations about the pre-filed bill. Other members said they will reserve comment until the bill is formally introduced and discussed today.

But even the House leadership assumes that the Senate will reject the $114 million bill, and go into a conference committee.

The House leadership maintained the governor's revised budget for the Judiciary at $3.807 million, down from the original proposal of $4 million. But House leadership members said the decline is because of the anticipated decrease in employer contribution for retirement because of the planned transition to the U.S. Social Security system.

Fitial's revised budget for the Legislature is $4.920 million, down from his original submission of $5.122 million also because of retirement contribution decrease.

The House leadership, however, raised the Legislature's budget to $5.887 million, and this includes increases in the members' operational account and the budget of the Legislative Bureau to be able to hire an additional counsel and a part-time economist, among other things.

Fitial's revised budget for the Executive Branch was $5.037 million, but the House leadership cut it to $4.566 million—a difference of $471,000.

The governor's revised budget for NMC is $5.189 million. The House leadership reduced it by $437,226 to $4.751 million.

MVA also got a cut of $550,000, from the governor's revised submission of $2.125 million to $1.575 million.

Basa said they are anticipating that the new $15 tourism and environmental fee would make up for the cut in the MVA budget.

The House leadership gave PSS $28.563 million, down by $936,194 from the governor's revised submission of $29.5 million.

House leadership members retained the $1.987 million appropriation for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., down from the original $2.25 million, again because of anticipated drop in employer contribution to the retirement system.

The Medicaid reimbursement budget was slashed to $1.417 million by the House leadership, compared to Fitial's revised proposal of $3.332 million.

The House leadership also decreased the medical referral budget to $3.269 million, from the governor's revised submission of $4.634 million.

Basa pointed out that healthcare-related programs funded by local funds may have cuts but they are also funded by federal funds and other sources of funding such as Compact Impact.

All other programs, services and agencies got either increases or decreases.

Under the governor's revised budget as a result of a $12-million increase in anticipated revenue, the total identified budgetary resources for 2013 is $133.641 million. Of this amount, $114.320 million is available for appropriation. This still brings back the CNMI government's budget to the level of over 20 years ago.

DIVERT

From Page 3

in June.

The Air Force considered four locations: Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

An evaluation of the four possible site alternatives identified Saipan and Tinian as meeting or have the ability to meet most of the five selection standards.

The full text of the draft EIS is available at http://www.pacafdivertmarianaseis.com/docs/public-review-period/Divert%20Public%20Draft%20EIS_Master_FrontSection2.pdf.

Two men file police brutality lawsuit vs convicted ex-cop

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two men have filed a police brutality lawsuit in federal court against a former police officer who was indicted and subsequently pleaded guilty to using excessive force while making a false arrest.

Felipe Kalen and Alafanso A. Kintin, through counsel Timothy H. Bellas, are suing Francisco S. Pangelinan, the CNMI government, and four unnamed police officers.

Kalen and Kintin sued the defendants in the U.S. District Court for the NMI for excessive force and false arrest, battery, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. The two are demanding $300,000 and $100,000 in damages respectively, plus attorney's fees and court costs.

According to Bellas in the complaint filed on Tuesday, Pangelinan responded on July 26, 2010, to a call from a citizen requesting police assistance in western Garapan.

Bellas said that upon arriving in Garapan, Pangelinan encountered Kalen and Kintin.

Bellas said that Pangelinan had a previous encounter with Kalen and had expressed resentment that Kalen was employed as a security guard despite having no formal training for that job.

Bellas said that Pangelinan sprayed the eyes of both Kalen and Kintin with pepper mace spray despite the fact that the two had committed no criminal acts or posed no threat to the armed police officers.

Bellas said the other police officers failed to intervene on behalf of Kalen and Kintin.

Pangelinan then allegedly handcuffed and arrested Kalen and transported him to the Department of Corrections where he was imprisoned until the next day.

Bellas said that Kintin was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center for medical treatment for injuries sustained from the pepper spray.

The CNMI government, Bellas said, never filed criminal charges against either plaintiff.

Pangelinan was indicted in March 2011 over the incident and he subsequently pleaded guilty to the use of excessive force on Kalen.

Furthermore, Bellas said, Pangelinan admitted that there was no justification for his use of excessive force on Kalen.

"As a result of the excessive force described herein both plaintiffs suffered pain and injuries," Bellas said.

The lawyer cited in the complaint previous police brutality acts allegedly committed by other police officers.

In the case of Pangelinan, Bellas said, he was not disciplined except for termination from the Department of Public Safety after being convicted of a felony in federal court.

Bellas said that Pangelinan, while still a police officer, was reported to have been smoking illegal drugs.

"On information and belief, DPS has no effective drug testing program to screen officers who wield deadly force after they have been hired as police officers," Bellas said.

RE-ELECTION HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) and his wife Andrea walk to the Commonwealth Election Commission on Monday to file his nomination petition and documents, officially kicking off his candidacy for the November election. Sablan, the first and so far the CNMI's only nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, is seeking a third term and is likely headed for a two-way delegate race.

Senate names conferees to break deadlock on Article 12 initiative

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) has named three Senate conferees that will work with their counterparts in the House of Representatives to break a deadlock on an Article 12 legislative initiative.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), the Resources and Economic Development Program Committee chair, will lead the three-member conferees team from the Senate.

The conference committee will attempt to come up with a compromise on the initiative, which seeks to change the 25-percent blood quantum requirement to "at least some degree" of Chamorro or Carolinian blood or a combination of these, in order to be considered a person of Northern Marianas descent.

"I know the importance of addressing the blood quantum, as well as the 99-year lease and I hope the conference committee will result in addressing both issues," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The other two conferees on House Legislative Initiative 17-3, House Draft 1, Senate Substitute 1 are Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota).

Torres said the first meeting of the Senate and House conferees may be next week.

Their House counterparts are acting speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), House Natural Resources Committee chair Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), and Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan).

Under Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution, only persons of Northern Marianas descent can own land in the CNMI.

The House rejected on Friday the Senate's amendment to HLI 17-3, HD1, which inserted a provision increasing the maximum number of years on private land leases from the current 55 years to 99 years.

This comes barely a month before the deadline for submitting legislative initiatives to the Commonwealth Election Commission, for placement on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Manglona, in a separate interview, said he also named the three Senate conferees on House Bill 17-214, authored by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), which seeks to strengthen the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

Leading the conferees is Ayuyu, also the chairman of the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee. The two others are Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) and Hofschneider.

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Active CUC customers continue to drop

» About 500 fewer electric users this year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of power, water, and sewer customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues to drop.

Records obtained from the utilities corporation show that among electric customers alone, the number of active patrons dropped by 516 this year.

As of June 30 this year, CUC's active power customers totaled 14,302, a slight drop compared to the 14,818 power customers during the same period last year.

The same CUC data revealed that in just a month's time, the number of power consumers further declined to 13,963 as of July 4, 2012—a reduction of 339 customers.

A decline in active patrons was also noted in water service. As of June 30 last year, there were 9,894 active water customers but this declined to 9,566 in June 2012—a reduction of 328 individuals. The downward trend continues as CUC posted only 9,211 active water customers on July 4, 2012—a reduction of 355 customers.

For wastewater service, CUC lost 209 active users, with just 2,579 in June 2012, down from the 2,788 posted in June 2011. This number further went down to 2,527 as of July 4 this year.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren defines an active customer as one who receives a bill for services during the month.

He attributed the large declines in active customers to the general economic slowdown being experienced on the island and impact of federal immigration issues.

Since the federal government took over the labor and immigration system of the Commonwealth, many nonresident workers have left the islands while many local residents opted to relocate off-island due to lack of employment opportunities and economic hardship.

"Based on the numbers, we have about 500 fewer electric customers now than a year ago. This is a drop of a little over 3 percent [and] we attribute the decline to the general economic slowdown and immigration issues," Warren told *Saipan Tribune.*

3 banks to participate in small business credit program

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Three commercial banks have already expressed their willingness to participate in the State Small Business Credit Initiative program, according to Commonwealth Development Authority loan manager Oscar C. Camacho yesterday.

Speaking to members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe, Camacho said this program is being pushed by CDA and the Department of Commerce to support the islands' growth and economic development.

He said First Hawaiian Bank in Guam, Bank of Guam, and Bank of Hawaii are the latest commercial banks that informed CDA of their wish to get involved and help residents set up their own businesses.

It was also disclosed that two other banks—First Hawaiian Bank-Saipan and the Bank of FSM—will not be participating in the program, citing the many challenges on island.

The CNMI was approved a $13.1-million funding from the U.S. Treasury to jumpstart the State Small Business Credit Initiative program. The first of three disbursements amounting to $4.3 million has already been received and is ready to be loaned out to interested borrowers.

Under the program's condition, the $13 million must be expanded to $130 million in five years—a requirement that Camacho described as a big challenge but possible to achieve.

Camacho explained that "everything is bank-driven" when securing a loan under the State Small Business Credit Initiative program. That means all decisions, requirements, interest rates, approval and others entirely depend on the lender—the banking institution.

The loan application itself is directly submitted to the bank. CDA and the Commerce Department, according to Camacho, will serve as support system in the process but will not guarantee the loan's approval.

In order to qualify as a borrower, applicants should not be a sex offender. Also barred from applying are casino businesses, insurance companies, lending corporations, and credit unions, among others.

The main requirement for a business applicant is to be a U.S. citizen.

Role of CNMI SBDC

CNMI Small Business Development Center director Perry A. Inos Jr., who was among the guest speakers in yesterday's Chamber of Commerce meeting, shared the important role of his office in ensuring the success of every business on island.

Among initiatives it offers are counseling programs, small business training programs, small business resource/assistance center, and community/village outreach programs.

In these trainings, SBDC will provide knowledge on how to start a business, how to write a business plan, how to manage a business, and how to market the business, among others.

According to Inos, businesses succeed because of their clear sense of purpose and base their plans on realistic expectations on what they can achieve. These companies also understand their strengths and weaknesses relative to their competitors and know how to build strong and enduring business relationships. Before opening, these businesses develop a clear, thoughtful, written business plan that identify potential rewards but also prepare for probable risks.

Factors in the failure of a business include poor planning, not enough capital, lack of prior business experience, poor marketing, ignoring the competition, poor customer service, and getting the business plan wrong.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Commonwealth Development Authority loan manager Oscar Camacho explains to members of Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday the process of securing a loan from the State Small Business Credit Initiative program. The CNMI has already received $4.3 million–the first of three disbursements from the U.S. Treasury–ready to be loaned out to qualified borrowers.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

WIC
WOMEN • INFANTS • CHILDREN

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the CNMI Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program 2013 State Plan is now available for review and public comment from July, 12 to July 13, 2012. Interested member of the general public may review the 2013 State Plan at the WIC Program's Administrative Office located in Navy Hill, Saipan, Building No. N-25. Our office hours are from 7:30am to 4:30pm (Monday – Thursday). All public comments must be submitted in writing to the WIC Program Administrator at the same office no latter than July 14, 2012.

/s/Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer

/s/Carmen C. Cabrera
Program Administrator

Lamar named Kagman health center's interim DMA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Kagman Community Health Center board has named Dr. Daniel Lamar as its interim director for Medical Affairs.

Lamar will oversee the new center's medical operation in his new designation.

Corporation director for public health division Roxanne Diaz disclosed yesterday that Lamar will occupy the post until the Kagman health center board appoints a permanent DMA.

Lamar is an internal medicine physician at the Commonwealth Health Center who also functions as DMA for the Public Health Division.

Two other key positions at the new health center must be filled pursuant to the requirements of the federal grant. The chief executive officer and the chief financial officer positions, according to Diaz, have yet been filled but announcements are being readied

The CNMI was approved over $600,000 to build the Kagman Community Health Center. Its operation is expected to kick off on Oct. 1, pursuant to grant requirements. The corporation, being the co-applicant of the grant, is required to provide in-kind match to the federal share.

Diaz earlier disclosed that the corporation and the center's board are initially looking at employing 14 personnel, but she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that this might be adjusted following a review of the budget. She emphasized that all decisions on the new center's operation will depend on its board.

The center's board is scheduled to meet this week to discuss and decide on other matters relating to the new center. An interim CEO may also be named to jumpstart preparations.

A memorandum of agreement between the corporation and the center's board is also up for board action this week.

Saipan Tribune learned that the salaries for some positions at the new center will be shouldered by the corporation, including that of nurse practitioners, mid-level providers, laboratory technician, clerks, and others. The corporation is eyeing the lateral transfer of some CHC personnel to the center. It will also provide supplies and materials.

The Kagman Community Health Center will be built at the old detention facility in Kagman II. It will serve as a wellness, prevention, and primary care center. It will not be restricted to just Kagman residents but will be open to all community members.

Retirement Fund to lose administrator this month

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The troubled NMI Retirement Fund will soon lose its administrator, with Richard Villagomez's employment contract expiring at the end of this month.

Villagomez admitted that he does not expect his contract to be renewed.

"The people working at the Fund are some of the hardest working, talented, and professional. I enjoy working with all of them. I don't expect my contract to be renewed but will continue to do what we believe is in the best interest of the Fund and its members through the last day of my contract on July 31, 2012," Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune.*

Villagomez was appointed as the agency's administrator following the departure in May 2010 of Mark A. Aguon. Prior to becoming Fund administrator, Villagomez was its loan manager and analyst.

The Fund has been placed on emergency status by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial through an executive order that aims to transfer its operation and management to the Department of Finance. However, the actual transfer will not happen until a formal decision on the Fund's bankruptcy petition is issued.

Villagomez

Sources say that there are two ways to fill the administrator position: through the appointment of the governor who is currently off-island, or through the bankruptcy court, which decides and takes action on the Fund issues based on Fund requests and petitions.

The Executive Branch has yet to name an appointee for the position and Finance Secretary Larissa Larson declined to comment on Villagomez's contract.

"I would like to decline comment on anything related to Mr. Richard Villagomez's contract as it is a personnel matter," Larson told *Saipan Tribune*.

In a recent correspondence to the Legislature, Villagomez expressed fears and doubts about the Executive Branch's intention to take over the pension agency and suggested ways on how the Fund's assets can be protected.

The continuing depletion of the pension program's assets was the prime reason for the bankruptcy petition filed by the agency's board in early April. Without infusion of new monies to its portfolio, its lifespan was projected to last less than two years.

Villagomez said the Fund's total assets is estimated at approximately $228 million.

The central government, based on a court judgment in 2009, owes the Fund over $320 million in unpaid employer contributions.

Villagomez should stay

Commonwealth Retirees Association chair Larry Cabrera said yesterday that Villagomez should stay for the best interest of the program.

He believes that Villagomez's contract can be acted on by the remaining members of the Fund board or he could be asked to continue to stay.

For Cabrera, the executive order Fitial issued declaring a state of emergency at the Fund and transferring it under the Finance Department is not yet in existence. He said the executive order will only take effect if the Legislature supports it and once the bankruptcy case is formally dismissed.

Until these things happen, the Fund board remains the sole authority to decide on Villagomez's contract, Cabrera said.

Once the executive order takes effect, "that's the only time the Executive Branch and Finance secretary can come in and decide."

More tickets printed for Las Vegas Night

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Rotary Club vice president Laila Y. Boyer announced Tuesday that additional tickets for the upcoming Las Vegas Night have been printed and are now ready for sale. This is on top of the tickets they initially produced and were sold since last week.

Las Vegas Night is the biggest annual fundraising activity of the Rotary Club and is slated this year on Saturday, July 14, at the Saipan World Resort beginning at 7pm.

Because of the additional tickets produced, Boyer hinted at the possibility of adding a few more cash prizes, depending on how many tickets would be sold from the additional booklets.

This year's grand prize is either $10,000 or a brand new Hyundai Elantra. Other cash prizes at stake include $3,000; $2,000; $1,000; and $500 for raffle winners.

Tickets to the fundraising event cost $5 each or $20 for a booklet containing five tickets. Boyer said two more meetings are scheduled for members prior to the Saturday event. Tickets will also be sold on Thursday at the Garapan Street Market.

The program for the event will have the theme "Stars and Stripes" in celebration of Liberation Month. Rotarians are encouraged to dress up in red, white, and blue.

Proceeds from this year's Las Vegas Night are earmarked for Rotary's Kagman children's park project. There will be an orientation for all volunteers before game night. The Rotary is also on the lookout for more volunteers to serve as dealers and cashiers at the event.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Meeting today for families of Kiosku honorees

Organizers of the 2012 ribbon cutting ceremony for the Saipan Leadership Memorial Kiosku in Chalan Kanao are inviting family members, relatives, and friends of the honorees to attend a meeting today, July 12, at the Susupe Multi-Purpose Center at 6pm. Saipan Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho is asking for the presence of family members, relatives, and friends of the honorees to discuss the activities for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

For more information call the council office at 664-2700 or 664-2701. ***(PR)***

Free Army Reserve Enrichment Camp

The Army Reserve's Child, Youth and School Services will host a free Youth Enrichment Camp on July 23-27 2012, at Marianas Trekking for children ages 4-12. For more information contact Travis Mckinney at (808) 438-1600 Ext. 3374 or email travis.mckinney@us.army.mil, or Chris Nelson at 323-8735. ***(PR)***

Free films every Friday at the park

The American Memorial Park presents family-friendly films twice a day for free every Friday, at 2pm and 6pm, in the Visitors Center auditorium.

- July 13: *Up* (2pm and 6pm)
- July 20: *Wall-E* (2pm and 6pm)
- July 27: *Meet The Robinsons* (2pm and 6pm)
- Aug. 3: *Ice Age* (2pm)
- Aug. 10: *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* (2pm and 6pm)
- Aug. 17: *Rio* (2pm and 6pm)

The regularly scheduled First Friday Films at 6:30pm will continue. ***(AMP)***

Free business workshop

The CNMI Small Business Development Center, in partnership with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, presents the free workshop "How to market your business" on July 13, 2012, from 9am to 11am, at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office on the first floor of the Familia Building in Garapan. Register online at http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/. Deadline for pre-registration is 12pm, one day before the workshop. For more information contact Linda at 664-3018 or linda@pacificsbdc.com. ***(PR)***

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-GOV-078
Purchase of Ground Maintenance Equipment & Tools

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Purchase of Ground Maintenance Equipment & Tools.

The project package will be available Thursday, June 28, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on July 18, 2012 to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB12-GOV-078"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, July 25, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time July 25, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 25, 2012 and must be received no later than August 7, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, August 8, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on July 25, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable asset are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty **(60)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars **($100.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
July 12 , 2012

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. D.P.W	05/15/2012 SSm-2012-X-037	Road Improvement	Chalan Kanoa	Shoreline APC	Approved (07/06/2012)*
2. Saipan TV Production	06/01/12 SSm-2012-X-041	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Area	Shoreline APC	Approved (06/06/12)*
3. B&J Corporation	06/05/12 SPIm-2012-X-042	Dry Dock	Able Dock	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (06/11/12)*
4. Island Marine Sports, Inc.	06/05/12 SLRm-2012-X-043	Scuba Diving Tour	Designated Dive Sites	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review
5. Department of Public Works	05/23/12 RSm-2012-X-044	Route 10 Road Project	Rota	Shoreline APC	Under Review
6. Blue Water Tours	06/27/12 SLRm-2012-X-045	Snuba Operations	Lagoon & Reef Areas	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (07/06/2012
7. Mayor Office Saipan	06/28/12 SSm-2012-X-046	July 4th Liberation Day	Beach Road Garapan	Shoreline APC	Approved (07/04/12)*
8. Pacific Island Club	07/03/12 SMS-91-X-25(A)	BBQ Pavilion	San Antonio	Amendment	Under Review

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

New report: Interior contributed $385B to US economy, over 2 million jobs in FY2011

WASHINGTON, D.C.—From facilitating energy development to managing America's public lands for tourism and outdoor recreation to assisting Indian tribes with education and economic growth, the activities of the Department of the Interior contributed $385 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 2 million jobs in 2011, according to a new report released Monday.

» Economic engines for local communities include energy development and outdoor recreation

"The Interior Department has a uniquely diverse mission that benefits the American people by promoting tourism, outdoor recreation, energy development and other economic activities that fuel local economies," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. "This report underscores that there are real, lasting impacts on communities and small businesses across the country where Interior is helping to strengthen economies and support families."

The report, *The Department of the Interior's Economic Contributions*, highlights the impacts of the Department's broad mission, including land and water management; energy and mineral development on public lands; encouraging tourism and outdoor recreation at national parks, monuments and refuges; wildlife conservation, hunting and fishing; support for American Indian tribal communities and Insular Areas; and scientific research and innovation.

Prepared by Interior's Office of Policy Analysis, the report underscores the findings of other studies on the economic impacts of Interior Department lands and programs. For example, an earlier study found that recreation in national parks, refuges, and other public lands alone led to nearly $47 billion in economic contribution and 388,000 jobs in 2010.

Another report recently released by the Outdoor Industry Association showed that 140 million Americans spent $646 billion on hunting, fishing, hiking, and other outdoor recreation on public and private lands, including on the 500 million acres of public lands managed by Interior agencies.

"Under President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative, we are seeking to connect Americans, especially young Americans, to nature by providing more outdoor recreation opportunities. The President has also launched a major initiative to work with states and communities across the country to promote domestic and international tourism—America's No. 1 export—at places such as national parks and national wildlife refuges," said Salazar. "President Obama's focus on expanding responsible domestic energy development is working alongside our 21st century conservation, travel and tourism agendas to reinvigorate local communities—particularly in rural America."

The major highlights of the *Department of the Interior's Economic Contributions* report include:

■ The 435 million recreational visits to Interior-managed lands in 2011 supported about 403,000 jobs nationwide and contributed nearly $48.7 billion in economic activity.

■ Many jobs associated with recreation on Interior lands are located in rural communities, including 18,000 jobs in Utah, 16,000 jobs in Wyoming, 14,000 jobs in Arizona and 10,000 jobs in Colorado.

■ Energy development and mining on Interior-managed lands and offshore areas supported about 1.5 million jobs and $275 billion in economic activity. Most of these jobs are in Texas, Wyoming, Louisiana, New Mexico, California, and Florida.

■ Interior provides services to 1.7 million American Indians and Alaska Natives from 566 federally recognized tribes. Activities on tribal lands contributed around $12 billion in economic output and supported nearly 126,000 jobs. Support for tribal governments through loan guarantees and other aid contributed an additional $1.2 billion in economic output and about 9,500 jobs.

■ Interior's water supply, forage and timber activities, primarily on public lands in the West, supported about 290,000 jobs and $41 billion in economic activity.

■ Investments in construction and maintenance totaled approximately $2.6 billion, which contributed about $7.2 billion in economic activity and supported almost 49,000 jobs.

■ Interior administers a variety of grants and payments programs. These programs support activities such as reclamation of abandoned mine lands, historic preservation, conservation activities, and tribal governments. Grants and payments totaling $4.2 billion in 2011 contributed about $10 billion worth of economic activity and supported about 84,000 jobs. ***(DOI)***

Public invited to proclamation signing

Parole officer Melvin Sakisat reviews the exhibits from last year's Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week. Inset, Rep. Edmund Villagomez and Office of Adult Probation chief Ursula Lifoifoi Aldan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The public is invited to attend the 2012 Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week proclamation signing on Thursday, July 12, 2012, at 10am in the CNMI Supreme Court courtroom. This is the 12th observance of the annual event.

This public gathering precedes a week of activities (July 15-21, 2012) during which time the amazing work and accomplishments of the probation, parole and community corrections personnel will be acknowledged.

Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, July 15, at 9am at the San Jose Parish Church. Exhibit displays will be open for pubic viewing from July 12 through July 20 at the Court House in Susupe. During the week staff members will be involved in numerous physical interaction and training activities.

The Tinian and Rota Resolution will be held on July 17 and 18 respectively. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 12, 2000

Fund adds $3.5M in its Asian investment

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund board has approved the infusion of an additional $3.5 million into its investment in Asia as the region has shown signs of economic recovery. This brings to $18.5 million the total money now handled by its money manager Invesco Asia Ltd. in the region. In January 1996, the Fund invested $15 million in Asia but the financial crisis in the region has brought down the value of its investment to $6 million in June 1998. As of May 31, 2000, the Fund's $15 million investment is valued at $9.8 million. According to Vicente Camacho, NMIRF Board chair, the decision was made by the board directors after meeting with their regional economists and money managers in Hong Kong in October 1999.

Insect-infested wood products seized

The Division of Quarantine has stumbled into a 20-foot cargo containing potentially hazardous merchandise shipped from Indonesia that are feared to affect the island's ecological balance. Quarantine officials held the entry of several stone statues, bamboo ornaments, wooden furniture, metals, and handicrafts aboard a large container after discovering the commodities were contaminated with dirt, bugs, and different types of insects. Acting Department of Agriculture director Stan Villagomez yesterday laid the blame on inadequate quarantine procedures performed by the country of origin as it apparently failed to thoroughly check if the contents of the container were free from undesirable elements.

July 12, 2001

Special program for NMI's diabetics pressed

Over 30 diabetes patients and relatives of persons afflicted with the disease trooped to the "Pacific Diabetes Today" workshop yesterday, where they shared accounts of their encounter with the disease. During yesterday's forum, most of the participants admitted to spending some time in denial that they, of all people, could be afflicted with diabetes.

Some blamed genetics. Others professed they were just probably too lax with their eating and exercise habits. But in general, participants agreed they all wanted to seek an end to the ordeal before its complications lead to fatality.

AG defends landfill, prison bids

Attorney General Herbert D. Soll yesterday defended the bidding process on the Saipan prison and the Marpi Solid Waste Facility projects, which came under attack by a private consortium due to alleged irregularity. Soll insisted that AGO's participation in the determination of the winning bidder for the $17-million Saipan prison project is legal amid allegations of joint venture bidder Western Equipment Inc. and DRC Pacific Inc. that it did not go through "normal procurement procedures." "The law states that we are to do that," Soll said. He did not cite the specific statute, which he referred to as his legal authority.

July 12, 2002

Babauta supports Chamber's position on military presence

Gov. Juan N. Babauta is scheduled to officially throw his support to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's position on the presence of the U.S. military in the Commonwealth during a signing ceremony at the Governor's Office at 11am today. Aside from Babauta, other ranking government officials and business sector leaders including Senate President Paul Manglona, House Speaker Heinz Hofschneider, Board of Education Chair Herman Guerrero, Chamber President Richard Pierce and Chamber Armed Forces Committee Chair Mike Schadek will also sign the position paper. Pierce and Schadek will also present the document, together with the Guam Chamber of Commerce, to CNMI Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio on July 26, 2002.

Backhoe, medicines to be sent to Chuuk

The Babauta administration has identified a backhoe that could be sent to Chuuk to help excavate and clear the mudslides that have killed at least 42 people already since the passage of Typhoon Chata'an. Besides this heavy equipment, some private groups such as the Karidat Foundation are now coordinating with the CNMI government in sending to Chuuk some donations like clothing and other needed materials. The Department of Public Health has also identified some needed medicines that it would send to Chuuk as part of relief efforts.

Pacific

New research exposes links between Polynesia and Americas

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—New evidence of ancient Polynesian contact with the Americas is being presented at this year's Easter Island and the Pacific Conference.

The eighth Easter Island and the Pacific Conference is being held in California, with about 150 people attending including archaeologists, anthropologists, art historians and geographers.

A professor of biological anthropology from Otago University, Lisa Matisoo-Smith, says in 2007 they published a paper about finding Polynesian chicken bones in the Americas.

She says they think they have found more evidence of Polynesian contact after looking at ancient DNA of people and animals in Chile.

"Polynesians continued voyaging, once they found all of the islands of Polynesia they kept going until they couldn't go any further and basically that would be when they hit the mainland. The evidence that we have is that's from this little off-shore island which is where Polynesians probably would have stopped and re-grouped and maybe traded and turned around again and went back."

Lisa Matisoo-Smith says they knew that there had to be contact at some point, because Polynesians have the kumara - a South American plant that was in Polynesia before Europeans arrived.

The contact is thought to have been made about a thousand years ago.

US ROTC cadets begin training of COM-FSM Upward Bound students

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—A memorandum of understanding signed by the College of Micronesia-FSM Upward Bound Program at Pohnpei Campus and the U.S. Army Cadet Command began a three-week training of Upward Bound students by U.S. Army ROTC cadets.

Eight U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets began instructing students at the Pohnpei Island Central School in English, math, science, and physical training from June 26 to July 13, 2012. This cooperation is the first-ever U.S. Army Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program in the Federated States of Micronesia. The cadets are under the command of U.S. Army Lt. Col. Michael Feret, CULP program coordinator to the FSM.

COM-FSM president Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D., Upward Bound staff Steven Yarofalig on behalf of director Diaz Joseph, and acting Pohnpei Campus dean Maria Dison signed the MOU on June 25 with Feret, welcoming the CULP Visit Summer 2012 program to begin its mission in Pohnpei.

The eight ROTC Cadets providing the training for the Upward Bound students are currently working towards their bachelor degrees.

The cadets and university they are attending are: Melissa Fellrath, Columbus State University; Zhe Pan, Temple University; Samuel Watts, Minnesota State University; Andrew Munger, Wake Forest University; Daniel McRoy, Western Kentucky University; Maychee Zah, University of Georgia; Stephen Cherry, Stephen F. Austin University; and Jack Wood, Lewis University.

The CULP Program is designed to prepare newly commissioned U.S. Army lieutenants to lead with confidence and competence in a joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational environment. Cadets are deployed in some 80 countries during the summer immersion program. ***(COM-FSM)***

'Benefits of Pacific Arts Festival outweigh costs'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—An anthropologist who has been following the Festival of Pacific Arts since 1985 says the event is still worth having, despite the costs of hosting and attending it in difficult economic times.

The 11th festival is into its second week in Solomon Islands and every day tens of thousands of people from all over the country are flocking to the main festival grounds in the capital, Honiara.

Dr. Karen Stevenson, who at the University of the South Pacific's Oceania Centre in Fiji, says it is wonderful to see them so interested in what people from other provinces are doing.

"And you think wouldn't they know this but why would they know this, so it's such an opportunity I think for that way for people to actually learn not only about different nations and what's going on in different nations but what's going on in their own nation, so I think financially I do think it's worth it."

However Dr. Karen Stevenson says she never knows how Pacific Island countries afford to stage the four-yearly event and the fact that several are not attending this year shows how expensive it is for participants.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Search for missing Hevilift helicopter crew continues in PNG

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—After four consecutive days of searching in Papua New Guinea, there are still no signs of the missing Hevilift company helicopter and its three crew members. The helicopter disappeared shortly after leaving a drill rig site 130 kilometers south-east of Mt. Hagen, on Friday afternoon, and the three people on board have been missing since. Authorities have named two of the men as Australian captain Russell Aitken, 42, and New Zealander captain Anthony Annan, 49. Hevilift says the family of the third missing man, an Australian, has asked that his identity be withheld. Yesterday, another search led by Hevilift, the company that employed the missing men, was conducted using seven aircrafts but they could not locate the wreckage nor any signal from the Bell 206 helicopter emergency beacon.

Niue health officials urge residents to treat dengue immediately

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Minister of Health in Niue says people diagnosed with dengue fever are not always taking the necessary precautions to prevent an epidemic. About 50 people have contracted the disease in Niue this year including the school teacher Charles Jessop, who died last week after developing the hemorrhagic strain of the fever. The Minister, Joan Viliamu, had a meeting with the Niue's Premiere, Toke Talagi, on Tuesday to discuss the government's dengue fever awareness campaign. Viliamu says some people have failed to take the advice of health professionals on keeping homes and villages clean. "Seek the doctor when it has started to happen, even though its not dengue, it's a flu. Mild cases that we send back home, we ask them to stay home to fully recover, and also those who were admitted to hospital to take two weeks to stay at home to fully recover before going out."

Fiji elections office reports over 25,000 registered

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—Seven thousand people have been registered around Fiji's voter registration centers yesterday, and the number now tallies up to 25,058. This was confirmed in figures released by the Elections Office. The Elections Office said after yesterday's registration 1,861 people registered in the greater Suva area, 1,301 in Tailevu, 844 in Serua and Namosi, 629 in Labasa, 130 in Levuka, 383 in Taveuni and 1852 in the Western division. Permanent Secretary for Elections Mere Vuniwaqa told FijiLive they have been having good responses from the public during this registration period and no problems have been encountered so far. Meanwhile government in a statement said over the weekend more than 180 registration clerks were briefed before being deployed to their respective registration centers across the country.

PNG sorcery killings investigation results in 29 arrests

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—Twenty nine people including two juveniles, said to be members of a cult group in Bogia, have been formally charged by police in Madang with seven counts each of willful murder.

The 29 including two juveniles aged 12 and 17 are expected to appear before the Madang District Court on Tuesday to answer to their charges.

Madang's Officer-in-Charge of Criminal Investigations, Division Chief Sergeant Steven Yalamu, said the charges were laid against the cult followers on Saturday.

Chief Sgt. Yalamu said this was after each suspect had been questioned and witness statements had been collected by his team of officers.

Chief Sgt. Yalamu said the crimes had been committed by the cult group on seven victims, five of them male and two female, between the months of April and June 2012.

He said the offences were quite serious and carried hefty penalties including life imprisonment or even the death penalty.

He said the 29 had been charged with willful murder as the offences were not committed accidentally by the group but done with the intent to kill their victims.

He said the penalties would vary but would be very heavy especially on those that the court finds guilty of "cannibalism."

"Our investigations show at least five of the suspects to be the main ones who, after the victims were killed, ate their body parts. Cannibalism is an offence not common but is covered under the laws as willful murder. In deciding the appropriate sentence the court will look at the circumstances involving each of the suspects; when they killed what did they do after? These are the things that will determine the penalty for each suspect," he said.

Chief Sgt. Yalamu said all the court documents and files were ready and would be filed on Monday with the District Court. He said the victims had already been buried by their relatives, but they would be seeking orders to exhume the bodies of victims to verify the reports of cannibalism.

"We are told by witnesses that the cult followers had allegedly sliced off parts of their victims' bodies and ate them, this we will need to verify because we were not at the crime scene to see the state of the bodies," he said.

Chief Sgt. Yalamu said although the suspects are entitled to bail, police would be pushing for bail not to be granted for fear that the suspects could not only kill more, but also continue to terrorize the people of Bogia.

Pacific nations among most vulnerable to coral reef degradation

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A report presented at the International Coral Reef Symposium has found three-quarters of the world's reefs are threatened by climate change, pollution and over fishing.

The report by the World Resources Institute, an environmental think tank, says Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, the Philippines and Vanuatu make up five of nine countries most vulnerable to reef degradation.

The report found a higher proportion reefs are threatened in the coral triangle region in South East Asia and the Western Pacific, which has the greatest variety of fish and coral species on earth.

In the triangle 85 percent of reefs are threatened and 45 percent are at high or very high threat levels.

The institute says all reefs are threatened by ocean acidification and temperature rises due to climate change.

However it says coral should be able to resist these impacts without additional stresses from overfishing and pollution.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to Ashley Autumn Castro! Wishing you a day that is as special in every way as you are! May all your wishes come true, beautiful! We love you! Greetings come from your family and friends!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 4th birthday Amado! Hope you enjoy your special day and may God bless you! We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, Jose Boy, and the family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to the world's greatest mommy, Nicole Benjamin Sablan! We hope your day is as wonderful as you are! With all our love, John Peter, and Ava. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Lenette Flores Maratita! Thank you for all your love and support. We love you and God bless always! Shoutout coming from your son Tatum Mamet, MaraFlo, and the Jones family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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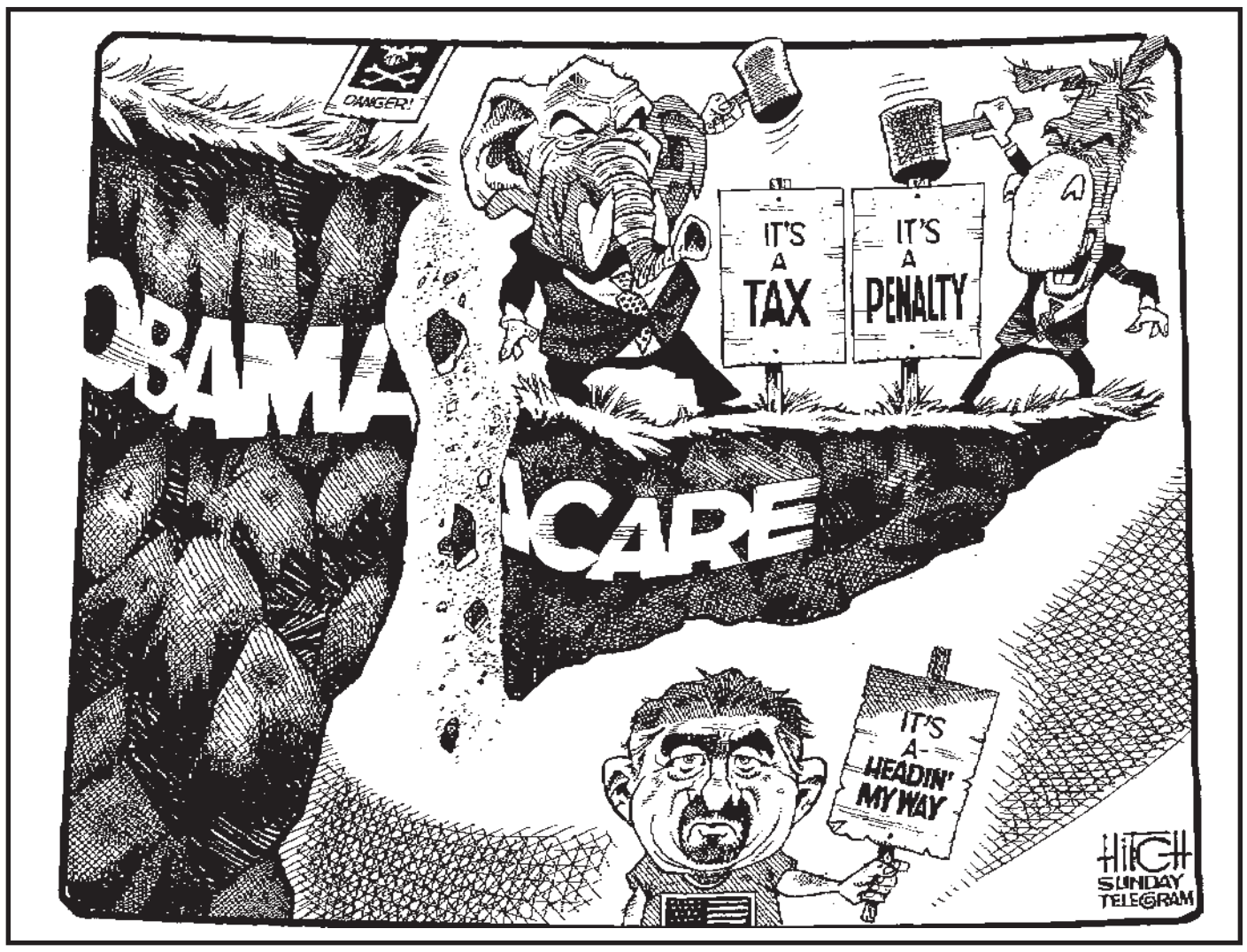

EDITORIAL

Will Egypt's generals yield?

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times *on Tuesday, July 10:*

In the first of what is likely to be a series of confrontations between Egypt's new elected leader and the country's armed forces, President Mohamed Morsi has called for a parliament disbanded by the generals to return to work, pending the election of a new representative body under a yet-to-be-written constitution. As with much about Egypt's transition from autocracy to democracy, the controversy over the legitimacy of the People's Assembly is overlaid with legal issues. The Islamist-dominated assembly was dissolved last month by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, but the council acted pursuant to a finding by Egypt's Supreme Constitutional Court that a third of the assembly's members had been elected illegally. (On Monday, the court reaffirmed that ruling, describing it as binding and final.)

In reconvening the People's Assembly, Morsi insisted that he wasn't flouting the decision of the court but rather reversing an executive action taken by the military council in the absence of a civilian president. Indeed, the overarching issue in this dispute is whether the armed forces are prepared to yield power to the elected representatives of the Egyptian people.

So far the evidence is mixed. The military council accepted the election of Morsi, the candidate of the Muslim Brotherhood who defeated a former prime minister under Hosni Mubarak. But it dismissed the assembly and asserted the authority to make budgetary decisions and to veto a presidential declaration of war. It also has reserved the right to challenge a new constitution as inconsistent with "the revolution's goal and its main principles." And on Monday, responding to Morsi's reconvening of the assembly, the council released a statement expressing confidence that "all state institutions" would respect the constitution and the law—an oblique warning to Morsi and members of parliament.

Like the military in Turkey, the Egyptian armed forces see themselves as a bulwark against Islamist extremism. Less nobly, they are also determined to preserve their outsize role not only in Egypt's national defense but also in an array of governmental and economic activities.

To some extent, the military's power—along with economic realities—may have inclined Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood to a more pluralist and moderate course. But if the generals overplay their hand, they will lose popular support and antagonize Egypt's allies, including the United States, which provides the military with $1.3 billion a year in assistance. Both Congress and the Obama administration have put the generals on notice that those funds are in jeopardy if the transition to democracy is thwarted. An attempt to shut down a reconvened parliament would be interpreted inside and outside Egypt as just such an obstruction.

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Amis du Peuple Syrien

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Last week's third meeting of the Friends of Syria hosted by France saw our Secretary of State Hillary Clinton take the conference podium and turn it into a Methodist pulpit, excoriating the lukewarm fence sitters among the more than a hundred country reps for not doing more to oppose Assad's regime in Syria, with choice diatribes against Russia, and rather pointed accusations against China. The State Department is clearly on the offensive.

We will not delve much on analysis here on the meeting since one can Google all kinds of write-ups about Syria's current predicament, particularly with Western powers.

For those of us who studied a bit of ancient civilization (we taught the course at SVES 6th Grade Social Studies), Assyria up to the Ottoman Empire is a 4,000-year journey of human turbulence and prosperity, violence and tranquility, all rolled into one. The cuneiform writing that led to the Greco-Roman alphabet we now use came from this region, the Levant of old, but the region has always been a pen of Arabic intrigue and bloodletting.

Damascus to Christians is a significant location where Saulus of Tarsus had his radical conversion from being a persecutor of a sect to being its No. 1 cheerleader. Then oil was discovered underneath its arid plateaus, and the region joined the worldwide history of conflict that bedevils oil fields today. All told, Syria derives 17 percent of its income from agriculture. All the rest comes from oil and its ancillary industries.

It is equally significant that the meeting was held in France since it was from its mandate that split the Middle East north and south following its agreement with Britain prior to the conclusion of World War II to divvy up the Ottoman Empire that sided with Allemagne and was thereby dismantled in defeat.

Independence and economic growth had seen only instability in the land, with Hafez al-Assad taking on power in 1970 and held the country together for 30 years as a socialist state. When he died in 2000, the democratic Damascus Spring blossomed but would later be snuffed when the Bashar al-Assad the expected reformist, accommodated by the legislature when it lowered the constitutional age qualification to be president from 40 to 34, turned out to be short on delivery.

A Syrian uprising began in 2011 and the beleaguered son of Hafez found himself and his England-educated wife suddenly the object of elimination from power in a bloody civil war. Ex-UN secretary general Kofi Annan is in a shuttle diplomacy trying to convince the younger Assad to go into exile without success. Now the whole world is ganging up on the Syrian government to rid itself of Bashar, and even Russia, a traditional ally, suspended its armaments' sale this week. China remains as the major source of Syria's imports.

Hillary and the U.S. evidently saw a diplomatic opportunity to air its concerns while berating its Cold War nemesis for delaying what it sees as another oil country in an inevitable need of drastic change.

This is jolly sporting of Uncle Sam to be gracious at dinner and firm on the reins at the hunt. But there is frustration mixed with anger.

In Decade of War: Enduring Lessons from the Past Decade of Operations is the title of an internal report from the Defense Department where the authors admit to failures in Iraq and Afghanistan. It lays out a series of lessons for the future. Effective efforts to win hearts and minds is top of the list, a task our uniformed personnel, with all its material and financial support, had not been able to accomplish in any theatre save Hollywood's chocolate-dispensing GI Joe after WWII. If the alternative press is to be believed, all our military managed to do in Iraq was to create a humongous ghetto of privilege and a false sense of security in a nation reeling in poverty and rife with internal dissent.

The integration of regular troops and special operations forces is mentioned, perhaps taking a crack at the Executive Branch's penchant to favor the elite over the regular troops. True to organizational development lingo, the report also recommends closer coordination of involved government agencies, conduct clearly planned and well orchestrated coalition operations, make host-nation forces be real partners, and use proxy forces in both the methods of war and the task of pacification.

The White House aims to reshape military power for the next decade, to step away from large-scale land wars into a new hybrid method of fighting as the favored strategy for the future. A tall order but hardly adequate.

The CNMI exists out of the mistaken notion that our real estate is best spent in profiting from the drumbeats of war. Empty rhetoric continues to extinguish the breath of a disproportionate number of young islanders who join the uniformed march. Being exclusively macho and manly in our response to 9/11 has only exacerbated an already discordant humanity, and damaged most definitely the equilibrium of the American soul. It is time to introduce the feminine virtues of inclusiveness and healing.

Meanwhile, Syria is heading the way of Libya and Egypt. In a tableau of continuing military operations, there will be more innocent—civilian and military—casualties in the days to come.

Perhaps, it is time to convene *Amis du Peuple de la Terre!*

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why we need pension reform

» Democrats who oppose it are putting liberal interest groups ahead of ideals

By FAREED ZAKARIA
http://fareedzakaria.com

A day after Governor Scott Walker won his recall election, the New York Times wrote, "The biggest political lesson from Wisconsin may be that the overwhelming dominance of money on the Republican side will continue to haunt Democrats." Democrats have drawn much the same conclusion. "You've got a handful of self-interested billionaires who are trying to leverage their money across the country," said David Axelrod, Barack Obama's senior campaign strategist. "Does that concern me? Of course that concerns me."

But then how to explain the landslide victories in San Jose and San Diego of ballot measures meant to cut public-sector retirees' benefits? What should concern Axelrod far more is that on the central issue of the recall—the costs of public-sector employees—the Democratic Party is wrong on the substance, clinging to its constituents rather than doing the right thing.

Warren Buffett calls the costs of public-sector retirees a "time bomb." They are the single biggest threat to the U.S.'s fiscal health. If the U.S. is going to face a Greek-style crisis, it will not be at the federal level but rather with state and local governments. The numbers are staggering. In California, total pension liabilities—the money the state is legally required to pay its public-sector retirees—are 30 times its annual budget deficit. Annual pension costs rose by 2,000 percent from 1999 to 2009. In Illinois, they are already 15 percent of general revenue and growing. Ohio's pension liabilities are now 35 percent of the state's entire GDP.

The accounting at the heart of government pension plans is fraudulent, so much so that it should be illegal. Here's how it works. For a plan to be deemed solvent, employees and the government must finance it with regular monthly contributions. The size of those contributions is determined by assumptions about the investment returns of the plan. The better the investment returns, the less the state has to put in. So states everywhere made magical assumptions about investment returns. David Crane, an economic adviser to former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, points out that state pension funds have assumed that the stock market will grow 40 percent faster in the 21st century than it did in the 20th century. In other words, while the market has grown 175 times during the past 100 years, state governments are assuming that it will grow 1,750 times its size over the next hundred years.

Why has this happened? It's democracy at its worst. Public-sector unions, powerful forces in states and localities, ask for regular pay increases. Governors and mayors can dole out only so much in salary hikes because of requirements for balanced budgets or other constraints. So instead, they hand out generous increases to –pension benefits, since those costs will hit the budget many years later, when current officials are themselves comfortably in retirement.

The net effect of these retirement benefits is to starve state and local governments of funds for anything else. Last year, California spent $32 billion on employee pay and benefits, which is up 65 percent over the past 10 years. In that same period, spending on higher education is down 5 percent. Three-quarters of San Jose's discretionary spending goes to its public-safety workers alone—police and firefighters. The city has closed libraries, cut back on park services, laid off many civil servants and asked the rest to take pay cuts. By 2014, San Jose, the 10th largest city in the U.S., will be serviced by 1,600 public workers, one-third the number it had 25 years ago.

The system as it is evolving is highly regressive. Current workers will have their salaries cut, their numbers thinned and their benefits slashed, all to maintain relatively comfortable benefits for retirees, who are on average richer than the people who are being asked to make these sacrifices. Current residents will watch their services dwindle, so that retirees—again, who are richer on average than they are—can have guaranteed generous cost-of-living increases year after year.

Public-sector unions are strong supporters of the Democratic Party, so their clout has drowned out the voices of the poor, the young, students and average citizens. That is why real credit for courage should go to those few Democrats who are taking on these issues, even at the cost of losing support from one of their key constituencies. That includes mayors like Rahm Emanuel and Chuck Reed as well as governors like Andrew Cuomo and Pat Quinn. Sadly, they are too few and too isolated. Democrats should take note: the ideals of liberalism are now being sacrificed for the interest groups of liberals.

Finding Higgs boson: A triumph of human curiosity

By PAUL TIPTON
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The announcement last week of the first definitive evidence of a new particle, likely the long-awaited Higgs boson, has a lot to teach us—and not all of it is about science. It took an international team funded by the global community of taxpayers to bring it about.

To be sure the science is extremely exciting. The Higgs was first proposed in the 1960s and is thought to be the remnant of a ubiquitous interaction common to all objects with mass. As lofty and ethereal as these ideas are, the Higgs discovery, as with all scientific discoveries, is solidly grounded in concrete, observable phenomena. It took a colossal new scientific instrument, the Large Hadron Collider, or LHC, at CERN—the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Switzerland—to produce the few hundred examples of this new object thought to be the Higgs.

The LHC is an engineering tour de force. Made up of 17 miles of super-conducting magnets, it is designed to capture and accelerate counter-rotating bunches of protons that collide at several locations around the ring.

These locations represent some of the most precious real estate on Earth, where every square inch of space is carefully planned and equipped with sensors. It took two detectors the size of apartment buildings, each with about 100 million sensor elements, to detect the remnants of the Higgs, and to distinguish it from the billions of background processes that could mask it. The human capital needed to plan and build the LHC and the two detectors, ATLAS and CMS, is measured in tens of thousands of person-years.

This much-anticipated discovery is in one sense the culmination of a huge intellectual effort, and in another sense the beginning of a new field of research. The Higgs is unstable and quickly decays to daughter particles. The study of how and what it decays into will give scientists a glimpse at the way nature works at much higher energies than we have yet to probe.

As exciting as this discovery is, and as meaningful as it is to the field of physics, the broader lessons of this human endeavor should not be lost on us. This discovery is the result of a truly worldwide effort. Citizens from all corners of the globe labored together to achieve this result.

The funding was also global. These days few people are willing to extol the glories and virtues of taxation, but this discovery would not have happened without the taxpayer. In fact, the vast majority of the planet's taxpayers had skin in the game. So in a very real sense we all own it.

The Higgs discovery also represents a triumph of human curiosity. Physicists are trained in science, not project management. Mix in communication challenges from cultural differences, language barriers and the need to work across 24 time zones, and you have a recipe for failure. But somehow even without the profit motive or the need to survive—things that usually cause humans to pull together—the CERN teams succeeded. I can only attribute this to an overwhelming desire to comprehend the fascinating physical world we inhabit.

The Higgs could well be the first science discovery brought about by all of us in the broadest sense, the planet-wide human community. It seems fitting that nature's secrets are unwrapped by all of us, that we own and enjoy the discovery corporately. Let us hope that this is the first of many such endeavors.

Paul Tipton is a professor of physics at Yale University. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

The Constitution and its framers were not perfect

By BOB RAY SANDERS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Bob Ray Sanders is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. Readers may write to him at: 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, or via email at bobray@star-telegram.com.*

Since the Supreme Court's ruling on the Affordable Health Care Act—"Obamacare," as many call it—political operatives and pundits have been throwing around the Constitution like it was a baseball in a Little League game.

Those blowhards who regard themselves as experts on the 1787 document and its 27 amendments are good at labeling their adversaries as people who don't care about the Constitution or the country and, in fact, are out to destroy both. These "authorities" tend to be self-defined conservatives who dish out harsh criticism for anyone, including members of the high court, who disagrees with their position.

When judges or Supreme Court justices decide cases contrary to what the so-called constitutionalists think is right (no pun intended), then they are called "activists" or "obstructionists" who want to make law as opposed to interpreting it.

They want members of the judicial branch to be "strict constructionists," meaning their interpretation must be extremely limited to the Constitution's narrow edicts and the framers' specific language. To do otherwise would be an abomination.

Of course, there are many people who use the Constitution like they use Scripture: They quote passages and then define them as meaning whatever they want; whatever supports their position on a given issue.

Now there is outrage from the right not only because the Supreme Court upheld the healthcare law, but because Chief Justice John Roberts—a George W. Bush appointee—was the swing vote, siding with the four liberals on the court.

Roberts is considered a traitor by those conservatives who considered him one of them, who really wanted him to decide the case based on political ideology. He's accused of betraying the Constitution by rewriting law rather than strictly determining the constitutionality of it.

The folks who hate the healthcare law, and the man for whom it was nicknamed, are truly in a state of shock and disbelief that one of their own could have sided with the enemies in ravaging the nation's most sacred document and, at the same time, bringing dishonor to the court.

Well, I've said before that, just as the framers of the Constitution were imperfect, so was that hallowed manuscript they created. Those Founding Fathers' greatest gift was drafting a document that would be adaptable to the changing times that were sure to come and indeed keep coming.

The late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, in commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Constitution, noted that its meaning was not "forever 'fixed' at the Philadelphia Convention."

He went on to say, "Nor do I find the wisdom, foresight and sense of justice exhibited by the Framers particularly profound.

"To the contrary, the government they devised was defective from the start, requiring several amendments, a civil war and momentous social transformation to attain the system of constitutional government and its respect for the individual freedoms and human rights we hold as fundamental today."

As for the Supreme Court, we know there have been times in history when, often driven by the politics and the mores of the times, the justices were dead wrong. I'll note Dred Scott v. Sanford (1857) and Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), just to name two. I'm sure many others would add Bush v. Gore (2000) to that list.

And there certainly have been numerous times when the courts finally got it right, namely Brown v. Board of Education (1954), Lawrence v. Texas (the sodomy case in 2003) and Roper v. Simmons, which in 2005 stopped the execution of those who were juveniles at the time of their offenses.

The truth is, we love the court when it rules our way and despise it when it doesn't.

To all you constitutional experts and Supreme Court analysts who are upset over the court's latest major ruling, I say to you what I told many of my friends after the Bush v. Gore decision: It's done. Get over it. And let us move on—until the next big emotional fight.

After all, there is a national election in four months.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

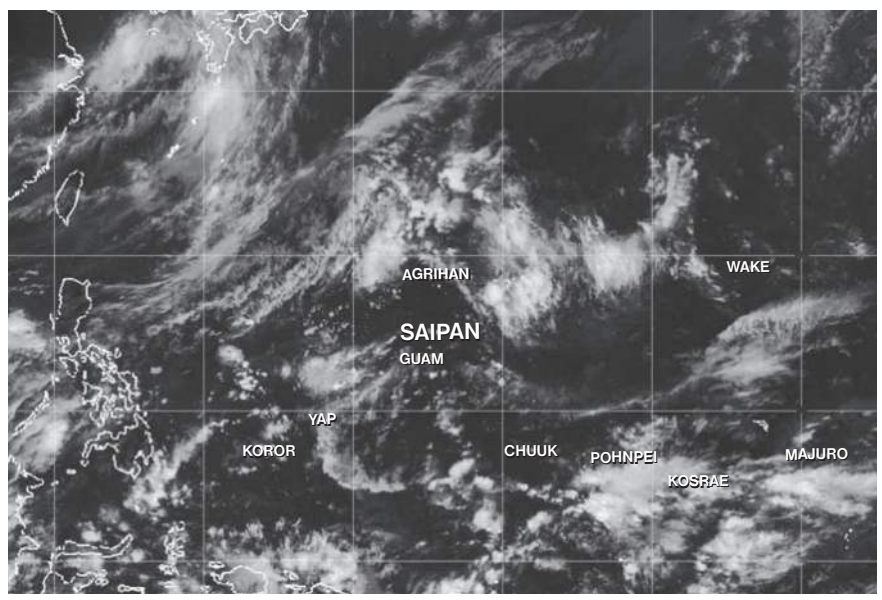
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼74
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼46
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼83
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼75
London	Rain	▲64	▼56
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼68
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼80
Melbourne	Showers	▲58	▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼70
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼76
Paris	Showers	▲66	▼55
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲81	▼72
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼70
Salem	Sunny	▲88	▼57
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼56
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼71
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼75
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northward from 11N138E to 16N138E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of Yap between 11N and 15N from 136E to 141E. Convergent south winds are combining with upper-level divergence to generate scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Okinawa or north of a line from 16N130E to 22N141E. An upper-level low is centered just west of the far northern CNMI at 19N143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present just north of the Marianas within 200 miles of a line from 22N143E to 23N147E to 20N151E. Another upper-level low is centered at 25N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of Minami Tori Shima or within 150 miles of a line from 20N152E to 21N159E to 24N161E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Pohnpei and Kosrae but south of Majuro within 200 miles of a line from 4N156E to 3N172E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:26 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:53 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
4:25 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
9:05 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:13 AM	1:06 PM
Friday	12:53 AM	1:55 PM
Saturday	1:36 AM	2:44 PM
Sunday	2:21 AM	3:34 PM
Monday	3:09 AM	4:24 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 7, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

China's trade growth weakens amid economic slump

BEIJING (AP)—China's trade growth plunged in June, hurt by weak U.S. and European demand and a Chinese slowdown, with a potential impact on economies as far-flung as Africa and Australia.

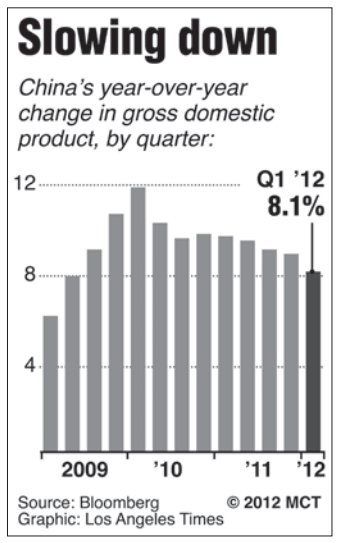
Import growth fell by half from May's level to 6.3 percent, data showed Tuesday, as factories facing weak foreign orders cut purchases of raw materials and domestic demand softened despite stimulus efforts. Export growth declined to 11.3 percent from May's 15.3 percent.

"The import slowdown was greater than expected," said Moody's Analytics economist Alaistair Chan in a report. As for foreign demand, "it is increasingly clear that exports will not be much of a boost to China's economy for some time."

Growth in the world's second-largest economy has tumbled to its lowest level since the 2008 global crisis due to anemic export demand and government efforts to cool overheating and inflation. That is bad news for companies and investors that were looking to relatively strong Chinese growth to shore up global demand as the United States and Europe struggle.

AP

A tricycle porter transports packs of tissue paper outside a wholesale market in Beijing, China, Tuesday, July 10, 2012.



Weaker Chinese demand could hurt Asian suppliers of industrial components and suppliers of iron ore, oil and other commodities such as Australia, Brazil and Africa. China is the biggest market for South Korea, Australia, Thailand and Malaysia.

"Our expectation is that China will have a soft landing but were it to be a more severe downturn it could hit quite hard in Asia," said Rajiv Biswas, chief Asia economist for IHS Global Insight.

The United States and Europe are less directly exposed but would feel an indirect blow as demand for their goods in economies that supply China weakens. China, the world's biggest energy consumer, is a major importer of oil and gas from as far away as Angola.

China's economic growth fell to 8.1 percent in the first quarter and data due out this week are expected to show it fell as low as 7.3 percent in the second quarter. Analysts expect a rebound later this year following two rate cuts since early June.

Premier Wen Jiabao told domestic economists at a conference this week in Beijing that stabilizing China's economic growth was "an urgent task for the short term and an arduous task for the long term."

A transcript of his remarks posted to the government's website Tuesday quoted him as saying that China has been boosting consumption and diversifying exports but stressed the importance of "promoting the reasonable growth of investment."

Wen also warned last weekend the economy faces further pressure to slow, suggesting Beijing might be considering more stimulus. It also has reduced gasoline prices and is pumping money into the economy through spending on low-cost housing and other public works.

Health care options for young, healthy and broke

WASHINGTON (AP)—They're young, healthy and flat broke—and now the government says they have to buy thousands of dollars' worth of medical insurance. What should tapped-out twentysomethings do?

Well, some may just do nothing. The annual fine for shrugging off the new federal insurance requirement, which is to begin in 2014, starts out at a relatively low $95, depending on income. That would be far cheaper than paying premiums.

But that doesn't necessarily make blowing off the mandate a good idea for the fit and frugal. Millions of young people will qualify for good deals on health care if they take time to sort through the complicated law.

Many will get Medicaid coverage at virtually no cost. Others will qualify for private insurance at a fraction of the full premiums. And health plans offered under the law will limit individuals' out-of-pocket expenses to about $6,250 per year or less— a bulwark against gigantic, unexpected medical bills.

"It doesn't have to be cancer or a heart attack or even a bad car accident," said Karen Pollitz, a health policy expert at the Kaiser Family Foundation whose own son needed $15,000 worth of surgery after he broke his wrist while skateboarding at age 20. "Once you show up in the ER, it starts to cost you some money."

The plans also will cover at no charge preventive care such as HIV tests, screening for depression or alcoholism, flu shots, hepatitis vaccine, contraception and pregnancy care. And insurers will no longer be able to exclude or charge extra for people who already have health problems.

"It's the 15 percent of young people who have chronic conditions like asthma or diabetes, and the young women looking to have a baby," said Aaron Smith, 30, co-founder of Young Invincibles, which advocates for young adults' health care. "That discrimination won't fly in 2014."

Young Americans are the least likely to be insured: almost three of 10 adults who are under 35 aren't covered. And they go to emergency rooms more than any other group except seniors.

It's still possible President Barack Obama's health care law won't be around in 2014, when the big changes are to kick in. Congressional Republicans and GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney want to repeal "Obamacare" if they win the November elections. Still, with open enrollment for the law's new state-based insurance markets scheduled to begin in October of next year, it's prudent to start considering the options for getting covered.

US job openings rose in May, good sign for hiring

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. employers advertised more jobs in May than April, a hopeful sign after three months of weak hiring.

Job openings rose to a seasonally adjusted 3.6 million, the Labor Department said Tuesday. That's up from 3.4 million in April. It's also the second-highest level in nearly four years, just behind March's 3.7 million.

A rise in openings could mean hiring will pick up in the coming months. It typically takes one to three months to fill a job.

The report "suggests business attitudes toward hiring are not in complete free-fall," Michael Feroli, an economist at JPMorgan Chase, wrote in a note to clients.

Even with the increase, the competition for jobs remains fierce. There were 12.7 million unemployed people in May, or an average of 3.5 unemployed for each open position. That's down from a ratio of 3.7 in April. In a healthy job market, the ratio is usually around 2 to 1.

And more openings have yet to translate into greater hiring.

For the April-June quarter, the economy added an average of only 75,000 net jobs a month, according to the government June employment report released last Friday. That's roughly a third of the average monthly jobs added in the January-March quarter.

Businesses and governments have been slow to fill jobs in the past year.

Since May 2011, openings have increased by more than 18 percent. But gross hiring has risen only about 4 percent.

Openings are more than 50 percent higher than they were in June 2009, when the recession ended. But they are still below pre-recession levels of about 5 million per month.

The government's monthly employment report measures net hiring.

Tuesday's report, known as the Job Openings and Labor Turnover survey, measures gross hiring. That rose in May to 4.36 million, the second-highest level in two years.

But when layoffs, quits and other separations are subtracted, the net gain is close to the 77,000 reported Friday for May.

Layoffs increased in May to the highest level since July 2010.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil slips lower below $86 on slowing China trade

Oil slipped further below $86 a barrel Tuesday after weak Chinese trade figures suggested the economic slowdown in the world's second-largest crude consumer is deepening and the government in Norway ordered the end of a labor strike in the oil sector. By early afternoon in Europe, benchmark oil for August delivery was down 14 cents at $85.85 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Crude rose $1.54 to settle at $85.99 on Monday in New York. In London, Brent crude for August delivery was down 88 cents at $99.44 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange. ***(AP)***

NTSB: Neglect, inaction caused Michigan oil spill

DETROIT (AP)—The Canadian operator of an oil pipeline that ruptured in southwestern Michigan two years ago, causing the most expensive onshore spill in U.S. history, failed to deal adequately with structural problems detected years ago and to respond appropriately to the catastrophe, the National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday. Enbridge Inc. knew in 2005 that its pipeline near Marshall, a city 95 miles west of Detroit, was cracked and corroded, but it didn't perform excavations that ultimately might have prevented the rupture, NTSB investigators told the five-member board in Washington before it approved the findings and 19 safety recommendations.

Chief of troubled brokerage left suicide note

WASHINGTON (AP)—Employees of an Iowa-based brokerage firm that has been unable to account for $220 million in customer money found their boss in his car at company headquarters, with a tube connecting the vehicle's tailpipe to the interior, authorities said Tuesday. Russell Wasendorf Sr., founder and chairman of Peregrine Financial Group in Cedar Falls, Iowa, was discovered Monday with a suicide note that prompted investigators to notify the FBI, which is conducting a preliminary inquiry. Black Hawk County Sheriff Tony Thompson declined to discuss the contents of the note, except to say it was "a form of documentation that caused alarm, at least concern for us to get federal authorities involved."

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,653.12	1,341.47	2,902.33
-83.17	-10.99	-29.44
-0.65%	-0.81%	-1.00%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9790	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7543	Philippine Peso	41.8800
British Pound	0.6438	Indian Rupee	55.3200	Singapore Dollar	1.2661
Canadian Dollar	1.0208	Indonesian Rupiah	9,445.00	South Korean Won	1,141.56
Chinese Yuan	6.3715	Japanese Yen	79.2780	Swiss Franc	0.9793
Euro	0.8153	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1820	Taiwan Dollar	29.9360
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2571	Thailand Baht	31.7200

Nation

GOP offers health care repeal without alternative

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republicans generally avoided talk of replacement measures on Tuesday as they mobilized for an election-season vote to repeal the health care law that stands as President Barack Obama's signature domestic accomplishment.

Instead, they lambasted the 2-year-old law as a threat to the nation's economic recovery and predicted some Democrats would join them in repudiating it.

"This is nothing short of economic malpractice," said Rep. Nan Hayworth of New York, citing tax increases, government mandates and other items in the law. "We can and we must do better."

She did not elaborate, nor did any of the members of the leadership in their remarks to reporters after the meeting.

Republican officials said the general reluctance to sketch any sort of alternative resulted from a desire to focus public attention on the health care law itself. It generally fares poorly in public polling, both nationally and in surveys of independent voters.

In addition, they said that while many Republicans ran on a slogan of "repeal and replace" in 2010, the rank and file is far from united around any precise alternative.

Republicans in both houses have suggested numerous measures in recent years to remake parts of the sprawling health care system. The last time the party offered a full-fledged legislative alternative was in 2009, meaning that none of the dozens of first-termers elected in 2010 were involved in its drafting.

That measure called for capping medical malpractice judgments, allowing insurance companies to sell policies across state lines and permitting small businesses to pool together to purchase coverage for their employees.

It also would have provided funds to the states to help maintain high-risk insurance pools for people with pre-existing conditions, for whom insurance is otherwise either unavailable or prohibitively expensive.

Taken together, Republicans said at the time their alternative would have reduced federal health care costs as well as the deficit. It also shunned the government mandates at the heart of the law that eventually passed.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated the GOP alternative of three years ago would have contributed to a reduction in premiums, particularly for individual policies and those covering small groups.

AP

House Budget Committee Chairman Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, July 10, 2012, as the House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on the implications of the Supreme Court's ruling that the individual mandate in the "Affordable Care Act" is constitutional, particularly as it relates to Congress' authority to lay and collect new taxes.

Obama team targets Romney's private finances

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama election campaign has a politically loaded question it wants voters to think about: What is Mitt Romney hiding?

Not a thing, Romney says. The Democrats are just trying to change the subject from the weak economy.

It's a newly intense back-and-forth as President Barack Obama's campaign team tries to cast his Republican opponent as a secretive rich guy who keeps his money in offshore accounts and refuses to release more of his tax returns.

The coordinated push, which includes stinging criticism from Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, web videos and television advertisements, comes as the Democrats grasp for ways to gain an advantage in a closely contested election and overcome a steady stream of lackluster economic news.

Getting personal, Biden declared Tuesday that Romney was "making a lie of the old adage, like father, like son" by not meeting the standards his father, George Romney, set when he released 12 years of tax returns during his 1968 presidential bid.

In a speech to Hispanic leaders in Las Vegas, Biden said of Romney: "He wants you to show your papers, but he won't show us his." It was a criticism that hit both Romney's financial reticence and his support for an Arizona immigration law that allows police to check the immigration status of people they stop.

The Obama campaign also posted a video on YouTube Tuesday that asked: "How long can Romney keep information on his investments in overseas tax havens secret? And why did he do it in the first place?"

Romney aides have called the barrage of attacks an "unfounded character assault" by a campaign desperate to distract attention from a sluggish economy that threatens the president's re-election prospects. And Romney insists his private financial records contain nothing illegal.

"I have followed the law," Romney said Tuesday on Fox News. "I have paid my taxes as due. I have also disclosed through all of the requirements of the government, every asset which I own, fairly and honestly, recognizing, of course, not to do so would be not only wrong but illegal and criminal."

Still, Romney has released only a single year's federal return— for 2010— along with an estimate for 2011. Other returns could contain information about accounts he has held in Switzerland, the Cayman Islands and Bermuda, and that has created an opening for Democrats to accuse him of being secretive and taking advantage of tax loopholes that aren't available to average Americans.

"I think what's important if you're running for president is that the American people know who you are, what you've done and that you're an open book," Obama said Monday in a television interview.

The Obama campaign says its focus on Romney's private finances isn't about his wealth but about whether he is gaming the system and, if so, what it says about what he would do as president to address tax loopholes.

With less than four months until Election Day, Obama aides say they may run new television ads targeting Romney's close hold on his financial records. The campaign spent more than $2 million in May on an ad titled "Swiss Bank Account" that ran in politically important Iowa, Ohio and Virginia.

PSU report on sex-abuse scandal due out Thursday

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—A potentially explosive report into whether football coach Joe Paterno and other top Penn State officials took steps to conceal that former defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky was a child molester will be released Thursday— online for all to see, officials said Tuesday.

Attorneys for the university's deposed president, meanwhile, broke a monthslong silence and denied suggestions that Graham Spanier participated in a cover-up with the image of Penn State and its powerful and lucrative football program at stake.

The internal report by former FBI chief Louis Freeh is expected to reveal how the university treated Sandusky, Paterno's one-time heir apparent, after top administrators fielded complaints about his encounters with young boys more than a decade ago. It is also expected to cast light on how the Hall of Fame coach, who died in January, exerted control over the football program while Sandusky worked under him and after Sandusky retired from coaching.

And the report could influence how Paterno is remembered while affecting an ongoing NCAA probe into the school's conduct and the criminal cases against two Penn State administrators.

Freeh's spokesman said the report will be published online at 9 a.m. Thursday. Investigators will hold a news conference at 10 a.m. in Philadelphia to discuss its findings and recommendations. The university trustees, who are meeting in Scranton on Thursday, said they will respond shortly thereafter.

Paterno's family said in a statement Tuesday that the late coach "did not cover up for Jerry Sandusky. Joe Paterno did not know that Jerry Sandusky was a pedophile. Joe Paterno did not act in any way to prevent a proper investigation of Jerry Sandusky. To claim otherwise is a distortion of the truth."

Paterno supported the decision by the board of trustees to hire Freeh to conduct a thorough investigation of the Sandusky allegations, but recent news leaks raised questions about fairness and confidentiality, the family said in the lengthy statement. They said the Freeh group turned down an offer for the family to respond to allegations after also asking to review the findings to prepare a response.

The winningest coach in major college football, Paterno never got a chance to speak to the Freeh group before he died of lung cancer on Jan. 22 at age 85.

"It is our firm belief that the report would be stronger and more credible if we were simply given a chance to review the findings concerning Joe Paterno in order to present the case he was never allowed to make," the family said.

Trustee Ryan McCombie— who was elected to the board this spring and was not a trustee when Paterno was fired in November— said he hoped the report took a broader look beyond Paterno "and addresses the university as a whole— and how this culture was handled or mishandled correctly— and comes to some closure on that."

"The people who loved Joe Paterno will still love him when this is over," McCombie said. "The people who disliked him may feel they have ammunition to continue to dislike him."

ACROSS THE NATION

LA-area chase of lewd acts suspect ends in crash

ROLLING HILLS ESTATES, Calif. (AP)—A middle school teacher under investigation in a lewd-acts case led officers on a chase Tuesday that ended with his pickup truck veering off a road, flying down an embankment and ramming a tree, officials said. The chase began with a child-endangerment investigation by police in the city of Bell, who are investigating Kip Arnold, a physical education teacher at Southeast Middle School who is suspected of lewd acts with a former student, officials from the California Highway Patrol and Los Angeles Unified School District said. Bell police had been watching Arnold at his home in Lakewood, and were about to arrest him when he got into the truck and fled, leading a chase on roads and freeways including Interstate 405, Interstate 10 and Pacific Coast Highway.

4 people killed in crash in southern Mississippi

COLUMBIA, Miss. (AP)—Four people—including three teenagers from the same family—have died in a one-vehicle accident in southern Mississippi. Marion County Sheriff Berkley Hall says three victims died at the scene and the fourth died at a Hattiesburg hospital. Hall says 14-year-old Dustin Young suffered burns and later died at the hospital. He identified the other victims as 16-year-old Cody Young, 17-year-old Brittany Young and 22-year-old Matthew Case. The Youngs were from Marion County, while Case was from Louisiana. Brittany Young's mother told Hall that her daughter also was pregnant.

Scientists to protect rare snake in St. Lucia

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—A snake that scientists had declared extinct long ago has been found living in a nature reserve on a tiny isle just off the east Caribbean island of St. Lucia, conservationists said Tuesday. At least 11 St. Lucia Racer snakes were spotted and tagged by a group of international scientists hunting for the snake in the Maria Islands reserve, which is part of St. Lucia and located about one kilometer (0.6 miles) south of the main island, according to the British-based Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Overall, scientists estimate that 18 snakes live on the reserve, said Matthew Morton, Durrell's Eastern Caribbean program manager.

Asia

Dolphy, comedian adored by many Filipinos, dies

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' "King of Comedy," the performer fondly called Dolphy by generations of Filipinos, has died.

Rodolfo Vera Quizon Sr. was 83. He died late Monday at Makati Medical Center of multiple organ failure and complications from pneumonia, according to an email from the hospital where he had been treated. He also suffered from kidney failure.

Philippine government officials, fellow movie and TV celebrities and common folk heaped praise on Quizon, who shot to fame for portraying gay roles and odd characters.

One of the late actor's sons, Eric Quizon, read a family statement before a huddle of TV cameras and journalists, thanking millions of Filipinos for supporting his father and asking for prayers.

"Heaven is a happier place with him there," said Quizon, who is also an actor.

The elder Quizon started performing on stage in the 1940s during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines and made his final comedy flick, where he played a priest, two years ago.

One of Quizon's biggest comedy hits was 'Facifica Falayfay," where he played a gay man. He also starred in a popular, longtime television comedy, "John en Marsha," where he played a man perpetually at odds with his mother-in-law.

Quizon starred in more than 200 films in his 66-year career, according to the state-run Philippine News Agency.

Many of his comedy flicks were produced by his own movie firm, RVQ Productions, which he set up in the 1960s.

President Benigno Aquino III said Quizon was a kind man who represented the Filipino everyman and gave his countrymen "a reason to smile for the daily happenings" in their lives.

Ex-President Joseph Estrada, a former actor, says Quizon should receive the prestigious National Artist award.

Quizon had never been married but bore children with a number of women. Some of his children also entered the movies, with a few following in his footsteps as a comedian.

As a young boy, he worked as a laborer, watching comedy stage shows before he himself became immensely popular. Philippine presidential candidates had sought his backing during elections to endear themselves to his massive following.

AP

In this Nov. 8, 2010 photo released by Malacanang Palace, Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, left, confers the Grand Collar of the Order of the Golden Heart to actor-comedian Rodolfo Vera Quizon Sr. at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall in Malacanang Palace in Manila, Philippines in recognition of the actor's contributions to the country's entertainment industry as its "King of Comedy" and of his charitable works such as providing scholarships to deserving children of migrant workers.

China seeks closer defense ties with Australia

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A Chinese official called Tuesday for closer defense and economic ties with Australia and warned against what he said was a growing "Cold War mentality" in the United States.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai made a veiled criticism of Australia's deepening military ties with Washington after attending annual talks on human rights in the Australian capital of Canberra.

Beijing has condemned a plan announced by President Barack Obama in November to send U.S. military aircraft and up to 2,500 Marines to the Australian city of Darwin to create a training hub to help allies and protect American interests across Asia, calling it a throwback to the Cold War.

"China and Australia need to work together with other countries in this region to promote common security, peace and stability in this region; in particular, we should guard against the resurgence of a Cold War mentality," Cui told reporters.

China is Australia's most important trading partner. Its demand for Australian iron ore and coal helped keep Australia out of recession during the recent global economic crisis. But Australia's 61-year-old defense treaty with the United States is a source of tensions between Canberra and Beijing.

China has accused the U.S. of attempting to contain its rise as an economic, political and military power. The U.S. says it has no intent to contain China, while affirming its determination to remain a Pacific power. Washington has been forging closer military ties with other Asian countries and has announced that 60 percent of the U.S. Navy's fleet will be deployed to the Pacific by 2020, up from about 50 percent now.

Indonesia, a neighbor of Australia, has shared Chinese concerns about the new U.S. military configuration in the region.

While not specifically naming China, Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said in March that "the management or the containment of a rising country, we believe, would see the return of old-style Cold War power politics."

The Australian government has rejected claims that the increased U.S. military presence on Australian soil is aimed at containing China and says it remains open to Chinese participation in joint exercises in Darwin in the future.

US man jailed for translating Thai king book freed

BANGKOK (AP)—An American sentenced to two and a half years in Thai prison for translating a banned biography about the country's king and posting the content online has been freed by a royal pardon, the U.S. Embassy said Wednesday.

Joe Gordon was convicted in December for translating excerpts of the book "The King Never Smiles" from English into Thai. The punishment was a high-profile example of the severe sentences meted out here for defaming Thailand's royal family, an issue that has raised concern about freedom of expression in this Southeast Asian kingdom.

No reason was given for the pardon, but U.S. officials have pressed Thai authorities to release the Thai-born American since he was first detained in May 2011. Gordon was freed from Bangkok's Remand prison late Tuesday, U.S. Embassy spokesman Walter Braunohler said.

"We are pleased that His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej granted Joe Gordon a royal pardon, which allowed him to be released from prison," Braunohler said. "We urge Thai authorities on a regular basis, both privately and publically, in Bangkok and in Washington, to ensure that freedom of expression is protected in accordance with its international obligations."

Braunohler declined to comment on Gordon's whereabouts or what his future plans were. Gordon's lawyer, Arnon Nampa, told The Associated Press he would likely return to America within several days.

Bhumibol, the world's longest-reigning monarch, is revered in Thailand and is widely seen as a stabilizing force. But Thailand's lese majeste laws are the harshest in the world. They mandate that people found guilty of defaming the monarchy—including the king, the queen and the heir to the throne—face three to 15 years behind bars. The nation's 2007 Computer Crimes Act also contains provisions that have enabled prosecutors to increase lese majeste sentences.

Opponents of the laws say that while the royal family should be protected from defamation, lese majeste laws are often abused to punish political rivals. That has been especially true amid the political turmoil that has followed a 2006 military coup.

Many had hoped the administration of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, which assumed power after elections a year ago and has prominent supporters who have been accused of lese majeste, would reform the laws. The issue remains highly sensitive, however, and Yingluck's government has been as aggressive in pursuing the cases as its predecessors.

Gordon, posted links to the banned biography of the king several years ago while residing in the U.S. state of Colorado, and his case has raised questions about the applicability of Thai law to acts committed by foreigners outside Thailand.

In the banned book, author Paul M. Handley retraces the king's life, alleging that he has been a major stumbling block to the progress of democracy in Thailand as he consolidated royal power over his long reign.

Gordon, who lived in the U.S. for about 30 years, was visiting his native country to seek treatment for arthritis and high blood pressure at the time of his arrest. After being repeatedly denied bail, he pleaded guilty in October last year in hopes of obtaining a lenient sentence. The judge said at the time that the punishment, initially set at five years, was reduced because of Gordon's plea.

ASIAN BRIEFS

S. Korean president's brother jailed in bribe case

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The South Korean president's brother was arrested and taken to a detention center Wednesday after a court approved a warrant on bribery allegations, a major embarrassment to the ruling party in a presidential election year. The Seoul Central District Court issued the arrest warrant for Lee Sang-deuk, the elder brother of President Lee Myung-bak, late Tuesday. Hours earlier, as the suspect entered the court for questioning, enraged protesters threw eggs at him, grabbed his tie and jostled him. Lee was taken early Wednesday from the prosecutors' office to the Seoul Detention Center, according to an official who declined to provide further details, including his name, citing office rules.

Clinton chides Vietnam on protecting human rights

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says she supports Vietnam's work to help resolve issues in the disputed South China Sea but believes the communist country needs to do more to protect human rights. Following a meeting with Vietnam Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh on Tuesday, Clinton said she remains particularly concerned about the lack of online freedom, along with the jailing of journalists, bloggers, lawyers and dissidents for peaceful expression. Vietnam maintains only lawbreakers are imprisoned.

Suspected militants in southern Philippines kill 6

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Suspected Muslim militants ambushed a truckload of rubber plantation laborers in the restive southern Philippines on Wednesday, killing six and wounding 22, following a day of fighting in which eight soldiers were wounded, officials said. The army commander on Basilan Island, the militants' stronghold, blamed al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf rebels for the violence, which came despite efforts by U.S.-trained Philippine forces to put an end to decades of bombings and ransom kidnappings by the extremists in the predominantly Christian nation.

World

Egypt's president flexes power, but cautiously

CAIRO (AP)—The faceoff between Egypt's new Islamist president and the old guard military sharpened Tuesday, with parliament defying orders to disband and the highest court slapping back at Mohammed Morsi in what has become an early glimpse into how he may flex his power.

Morsi's rapid-fire moves against Egypt's entrenched institutions show he is willing to push back against the establishment left over from the era of deposed President Hosni Mubarak. But—so far at least—he and his Muslim Brotherhood allies have also displayed restraint and appear intent on avoiding a collision course during a sensitive transition period.

It could point to a complicated and protracted shake-out between Morsi and Egypt's security and judicial power centers, as all sides test the limits of their powers while the country awaits its post-Arab Spring constitution—not expected before the end of the year.

In place of an all-out confrontation, Egypt may be witnessing the new rules of political engagement being defined in a time of highly unclear guidelines: tough statements, conflicting orders and attempts to push the envelope but not tear it up.

"One of them came through the ballot box and the other is trying to monopolize power," Gamal Eid, a prominent rights lawyer said of Morsi and the generals.

Already, Morsi has shown the ability to multi-task his political messages and end up somewhere in the middle.

During the campaign, he catered to hard-line Islamists with calls to strengthen Shariah law and celebrated his deep allegiance to the Brotherhood, long banned under Mubarak's Western-backed regime. But he also portrayed himself as a son of the Arab Spring, appearing with women without head coverings.

The brief session by the Morsi-backed parliament—lasting just five minutes—appeared to show the same tactics of both defiance and caution.

Lawmakers convened despite the house being ordered dissolved by the military after the Supreme Constitutional Court ruled on apparent election irregularities. But the speaker, Saad el-Katatni, sought to fend off charges that the Islamist-led chamber was contemptuous of the judiciary.

He told lawmakers the session was held only to find a way to examine the court's June 14 ruling and won backing to seek an appellate "second opinion."

Later, the high court struck back against Morsi, saying his decision to recall parliament lacked any legal basis.

AP

Egyptian members of parliament hug each other at the Parliament in Cairo, Egypt, Tuesday, July 10, 2012.

The president carefully avoided criticism of the court's ruling in his order Sunday to reconvene parliament. Instead, he restricted himself to revoking the military order that disbanded the chamber—in effect picking the easier target because of widespread public frustration with the military's lingering influence over the country since Mubarak's fall.

But in taking on the military, Morsi has also picked a still formidable foe with massive resources and powerful allies in the media.

The military brass has been Egypt's de facto ruler since army officers seized power in a 1952 coup. With conscription of males in force since the 1960s and four wars against Israel between 1948 and 1973, there is hardly an Egyptian family without at least one member in active service or with military experience.

"The best strategy for Morsi now might be to avoid confrontational policies and begin to slowly create a power base for himself in the higher circles of the country's body politic," said Azzedine Layachi, a Middle East expert from St. John's University in New York. "For now, a confrontation may not only stall political transition in Egypt, but could also lead to Morsi's removal from office."

UN envoy presses Syrian peace plan with Iran, Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.N.'s special envoy on the Syrian crisis sought to build support for his peace efforts Tuesday with the leaders of Iran and Iraq, saying President Bashar Assad has agreed to a plan to quell the bloodshed in the most violent areas of Syria and then expand the operation to the whole country.

Top diplomat Kofi Annan said at a news conference in Iran that the plan still must be presented to the Syrian opposition. But he said his talks with Assad a day earlier focused on a new approach to ending the violence, which activists say has killed more than 17,000 people since March 2011.

"(Assad) made a suggestion of building an approach from the ground up in some of the districts where we have extreme violence— to try and contain the violence in those districts and, step by step, build up and end the violence across the country," Annan told reporters in Tehran, his first step on a tour of Syria's allies. He did not elaborate on the plan.

Annan later visited Iraq and met Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to discuss ways to end the fighting.

"I think we've all watched the tragic situation in Syria, the killings, the suffering of the people," Annan said in Baghdad. "And everyone I've spoken to shares the concerns and the needs for us to stop the killing."

The conflict in Syria has defied every international attempt to bring peace, and there was no sign that the plan Annan described Tuesday will be a breakthrough. Although the Assad government's crackdown has turned the Syrian president into an international pariah, he still has the support of strong allies such as Russia, Iran and China.

There is little support for military intervention of the type that helped bring down Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, and several rounds of sanctions and other attempts to isolate Assad have done little to stop the bloodshed.

Still, Annan's latest efforts to reach out to Syrian allies suggest he sees them as integral to solving the crisis.

Annan was scheduled to brief a closed meeting of the U.N. Security Council by videoconference from Geneva on Wednesday on his meeting with Assad and visits to Iran and Iraq.

The council must decide in the coming days whether to extend the mandate of the U.N. observer force in Syria, which expires on July 20.

Since Assad took power following the death of his father, Hafez, in 2000, he has deepened cultural, political and economic ties with Iran, making it Syria's strongest regional ally. Tehran, in turn, has boosted Assad's military, providing it with advanced communications technology and weapons.

Bosnians to bury 520 Srebrenica genocide victims

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—On the 17th anniversary of Europe's worst massacre since World War II, Muslims in Bosnia are heading to Srebrenica to attend a funeral for 520 newly identified victims.

The remains of those Muslim men and boys slaughtered at Srebrenica around July 11, 1995, will be laid to rest Wednesday in the town whose name is now synonymous with genocide. The coffins are already at the memorial center and the burial pits have been dug.

Ambulances were also standing ready to help those among the tens of thousands for whom the event will be too much to handle.

Rabija Hrustanovic found the remains of her husband and brother among the sea of simple green coffins waiting to be buried.

"I want to lay down next to them and stay here forever," she said before breaking into tears.

Srebrenica was a U.N.-protected Muslim town in Bosnia besieged by Serb forces throughout Bosnia's 1992-95 war. Serb troops led by Gen. Ratko Mladic overran the enclave in July 1995, separated men from women and executed 8,000 men and boys within just a few days. Dutch troops stationed in Srebrenica as U.N. peacekeepers were undermanned and outgunned, and failed to intervene.

The bodies of the victims are still being found in mass graves throughout eastern Bosnia. The task has been made even more difficult by the fact that the perpetrators dug up mass graves and reburied remains in other mass graves to try to cover their tracks. The victims have been identified through DNA analysis and newly identified ones are buried at the Srebrenica memorial center every year.

So far, over 5,000 Srebrenica victims found this way have been laid to rest.

Mladic was arrested last year in Serbia and is on trial now at the tribunal in The Hague. He faces 11 charges, including genocide, for allegedly masterminding Serb atrocities throughout the war that left 100,000 dead, especially the Srebrenica massacre. He denies wrongdoing.

But despite the charges, to many Serbs Mladic remains a national hero.

WORLD BRIEFS

Olmert legacy revisited after acquittal in Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's acquittal of the most serious charges in a high-profile corruption case on Tuesday set off a fierce debate about how the peace process might have proceeded differently had the former leader not been driven from office three years ago. Olmert has claimed he was on the brink of a historic agreement with the Palestinians when he was forced to resign in early 2009. His departure cleared the way for hardliner Benjamin Netanyahu's election, and peace efforts have been at a standstill ever since. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called Olmert on Tuesday afternoon to congratulate him on the acquittal, said Nimr Hamad, an Abbas adviser.

Islamists destroy 2 more tombs in Mali's Timbuktu

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—Islamic extremists destroyed another two mausoleums in the northern Malian city of Timbuktu on Tuesday, attacking a graveyard attached to the city's most picturesque mosque, according to a historian specializing in the area's heritage. Salem Ould Elhadj, a researcher at the Ahmed Baba Institute in Timbuktu, said the members of the radical sect set out with picks and shovels to raze the tombs of two of Timbuktu's scholars, Baba Babadje and Mahamane Foulane, both of whom are considered saints.

Activists seek answers in Trinidad turtle tragedy

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—A Trinidad and Tobago conservation group called Tuesday for a prompt investigation into how government work crews crushed leatherback turtle eggs and hatchlings on a remote beach that experts say is the globe's densest nesting site for the endangered marine species. Witnesses in Trinidad's tiny town of Grand Riviere said they saw thousands of leatherback eggs crushed by heavy machinery over the weekend as workers redirected a shifting river that was eroding the nesting sites and threatening a hotel where tourists stay to catch a glimpse of a tiny leatherback hatchling or a massive adult, which can reach nearly 8 feet long and weigh more than a ton.

Focus

In this June 8, 2012 photo, students use a laptop at the Jose Maria public school in a shantytown on the outskirts of Lima, Peru. AP

Peru's ambitious laptop program gets mixed grades

By FRANK BAJAK
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Peru's distribution of more than 800,000 low-cost laptop computers to children across the country easily ranks as one of the world's most ambitious efforts to leverage digital technology in the fight against poverty.

Yet five years into the program, there are serious doubts about whether the largest single deployment in the One Laptop Per Child initiative was worth the more than $200 million that Peru's government spent.

Ill-prepared rural teachers were often unable to fathom, much less teach with the machines, software bugs didn't get fixed and most had no way to connect to the Internet. Many could not take the computers home as the initiative intended. And some schools even lacked electricity to keep them running.

"In essence, what we did was deliver the computers without preparing the teachers," said Sandro Marcone, the Peruvian education official who now runs the program.

The volume of low-cost, education-focused computers delivered globally remains modest. Intel Corp. says it has shipped more than 7 million, about a third in Argentina. Venezuela boasts 1.6 million distributed, licensed from a Portuguese company.

MIT Media Lab founder Nicholas Negroponte inspired the One Laptop Per Child initiative, pioneering the idea that computers could be potent tools for lifting developing world children out of poverty. It was never able to achieve the $100 laptop price tag he desired, but nevertheless won adherents.

More than 2.5 million of its $200 XO laptops—green-and-white models for the early grades and blue-and-white machines with bigger keyboards for older kids—have been distributed in 46 countries since 2007.

The rugged, energy-efficient OLPC laptops, which run a variant of the open-source Linux operating system, are in Ethiopia, in Rwanda, Mongolia and Haiti, even in the United States and Australia. Uruguay, a compact South American nation of 3.5 million people, is the only country that has fully embraced the concept and given every elementary school child and teacher an XO laptop.

No country, however, bought nearly as many as Peru.

"It's a really great idea," said Jeff Patzer, a software engineer with a degree from the University of California, Berkeley, who traveled from school to school in Peru's rustic Cordillera Blanca highlands in 2010 introducing and maintaining the laptops. "It just seems like there was some stuff that wasn't thought through quite enough."

Inter-American Development Bank researchers were less polite.

"There is little solid evidence regarding the effectiveness of this program," they said in a study based on a look at 319 schools in small, rural Peruvian communities that got laptops.

"The magical thinking that mere technology is enough to spur change, to improve learning, is what this study categorically disproves," co-author Eugenio Severin of Chile told The Associated Press.

The study found no increased math or language skills, no improvement in classroom instruction quality, no boost in time spent on homework, no improvement in reading habits.

On the positive side, the "dramatic increase in access to computers" accelerated by about six months students' abstract reasoning, verbal fluency and speed in processing information, the report said.

A study in Ethiopian schools by Dutch researchers from the University of Groningen, published last year in the journal Computers and Education, similarly indicated that OLPC laptops improved abstract reasoning.

The teachers in those schools had received extensive training in the laptops, which the researchers said introduced an "information-rich novelty" into an environment previously starved for learning material.

The laptops in Ethiopia, like those in Peru, were loaded with books, memory games, music composing software and other programs.

The Education Ministry official who ran Peru's program until last year, Oscar Becerra, calls the abstract reasoning findings "spectacular" and disputes claims that the program has been a failure.

"We knew from the start that it wouldn't be possible to improve the teachers," he said, citing a 2007 census of 180,000 Peruvian teachers that showed more than 90 percent lacked basic math skills while three in five could not read above sixth-grade level.

Many of the teachers had never so much as booted up a computer. In Patzer's experience "most of them barely knew how to interact with the computers at all."

At the Jose Arguedas primary school in Lima's gritty San Juan de Lurigancho neighborhood, 40 computers for its 570 students arrived nearly two years ago but few teachers have worked them into their lesson plans.

"It's been difficult for many teachers to adapt to them," said Graciela Martinez, the school's technology coordinator.

Many of teacher Magnus Fajardo's second-graders struggled when he took them to computer lab and asked them to write, sequentially, the numbers from 200 to 300 on their laptops.

The children knew their numbers but few knew their laptops. Less bashful children asked a visiting reporter for help. They wanted to know how to advance to a new line, how to increase the font size.

In the higher grades, Martinez said, children's use of the machines is mostly social. They have Internet, and Facebook is big. So are online games.

"For them, the laptop is more for playing than for learning," she says.

Educators say that's a clear sign the children haven't been properly introduced either to the Internet or to what is on the machines.

Negroponte thinks the main goal should be simply getting computers into poor kids' hands. Last year he proposed parachuting table computers from helicopters and he has begun a pilot project in two Ethiopian villages to test whether tablets alone, loaded with the right software, can teach children to read.

"There are about 100 million kids without schools, without access to literate adults, and I would like to explore a way to get tablets to them in a manner that does not need "educators" to go to the village," he said via email.

The OLPC team always considered Internet connectivity part of the recipe for success. They also insisted each child be given a laptop and be permitted to take it home.

Uruguay, a small, flat country with a far higher standard of living, has honored those requirements and achieved ubiquitous Internet access in the process.

Peru did not.

Becerra said trade-offs were necessary because it would have cost $1.2 billion to provide all 6 million children in Peru's elementary schools with laptops. Rural schools, beginning with those where a single teacher manages multiple grades, got priority.

But those schools' very remoteness complicated matters.

Some parents, mistakenly believing themselves the laptops' owners, tried to sell the machines, Becerra said.

About a quarter didn't want the computers coming home, fearing theft, the development bank researchers found. Meanwhile, two in five children didn't take their computers home because their school wouldn't let them.

Some schools didn't have enough electricity to power the machines.

And then there was Internet. Less than 1 percent of the schools studied had it.

Patzer blogged about the frustration he witnessed when children and teachers struggled with the laptops' old, buggy software and, not understanding how to update to improved versions, "promptly boxed them up and put them back in the corner."

Marcone questioned whether the IADB study measured the right aptitudes among those who did use the machines.

"What was evaluated was a paper and pencil test," he said. "What if they had tested 21st-century skills?" he said. Skills such as those developed by the audiovisual tools the laptops possess?

Marcone has already made modifications to the program, including making the XO laptop part of Peru's university teacher-training curriculum this year.

His office will continue to support the laptops, replacing broken ones as well as distributing 41,000 that were destroyed in a warehouse fire earlier this year. It plans to expand rural Internet penetration and put new support resources online. But it won't be trying to give out one laptop per child.

"The ministry is not going to do another macro project of this type. It is not going to make multi-million-dollar purchases and distribute (computers) like candy."

Environment

A desire to know more about the environment

By JOLLY ANN CRUZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hafa adai! My name is Jolly Ann Cruz and I am currently enrolled at the Northern Marianas College. I am majoring in Elementary Education and Natural Resource Management. I enjoy reading, being outdoors, or underwater, but most of all I love being with family and friends.

For the Coral Reef Initiative Summer Internship I have been working with the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, or MINA. MINA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of diverse natural resources of the CNMI. We ensure the island way of life by working toward sustaining the natural environment. My mentors are Frank Villagomez and Shirlynn Perez. Frank Villagomez is program manager for "Enhancing the Managaha Experience" at the Managaha Marine Conservation Area, or MMCA. MMCA is a project that involves both the community and visitors to promote sustainable behaviors within the conservation area and offers a variety of learning programs for protecting our biodiversity and adapting to climate change. Shirlynn Perez is program manager for the "Lao Lao Bay Tasi Watch" project. The Tasi Watch project is a near shore marine management outreach program developed to build and strengthen local involvement in the conservation of land and marine areas surrounding the bay. Working with both Frank and Shirlynn has been a great experience. They both show a passion for conserving the islands' natural resources. I have been tasked to create outreach materials as well as putting together a newsletter, and designing other materials for our projects. Soon I will also be working on co-managing the MINA website.

With Frank Villagomez and my fellow intern Evonnie Camacho, we have been going to Managaha on a weekly basis to do CoralWatch. CoralWatch is a non-profit organization initiated at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. They are dedicated to conserving the coral reefs around the world, ensuring that the present and future generations may enjoy its wealth and beauty. When doing CoralWatch we use a Coral Health Chart. It is a square chart with six different shades of four colors on each side to compare the lightest and darkest color to the coral we are surveying. We do this to monitor coral health and to increase our understanding of coral reefs and coral bleaching. This project has helped me realize the value and importance of our coral reefs and that it plays a major role in our ecosystem, tourism, and lifestyle.

With Shirlynn Perez and some volunteers at Laolao Beach we performed some baseline surveys targeted toward beachgoers to measure their knowledge of erosion and runoff, coral bleaching, sea turtles, recycling, and global warming. The results of the survey will show whether we have met our goal of educating the community so that they may reduce their impact to its fragile ecosystem. While conducting the survey, I realized how little the regular beachgoers knew about climate change, global warming, and coral bleaching. This inspired me to increase my education and outreach efforts to the community. Aside from that, we have done beach cleanups to measure the amount of recyclables, picnic/barbecue items, fishing items, and other trash gathered at the site. At the end of each cleanup we weighed the items, recyclables and trash, separately. We hope to continuously see a decrease in trash collected from the bay, which would show that more residents and visitors are acting responsibly after a day at the beach. We are also preparing outreach activities at the site that will involve learning stations open to the community.

I applied for this internship because I had a desire to know more about the environment and I wanted firsthand experience in this line of work. I have been an intern for only four weeks but have already gained so much knowledge about the role and effect we humans play in our environment. This internship has helped me to be more eco-friendly with a purpose, to understand why I choose to use the stairs instead of the elevator, or why I use a reusable shopping bag instead of a plastic one. I am now more cautious of my actions, thinking of the future generations and how I want them to experience its beauty the way I have.

For more information about what we do and our current projects, visit our website at http://www.minapacific.org/.

Akron Zoo's octopus chooses her name

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

AKRON, Ohio—And the winning name is: Cora.

As cameras flashed, the headliner at the Akron Zoo's Journey to the Reef exhibit, a giant Pacific octopus, chose her name Monday morning, then held it up on a long tentacle as if to punctuate her preference.

"They are the 'octorazzi,'" Pete Mohan, director of animal operations, quipped as a half-dozen cameras snapped pictures of the 20-pound, four-foot long superstar while visitors eagerly awaited her decision.

Then, as if to put an exclamation point on her choice, Cora delighted the crowd by turning a bright red after releasing the colorful ball with her new name written on the side.

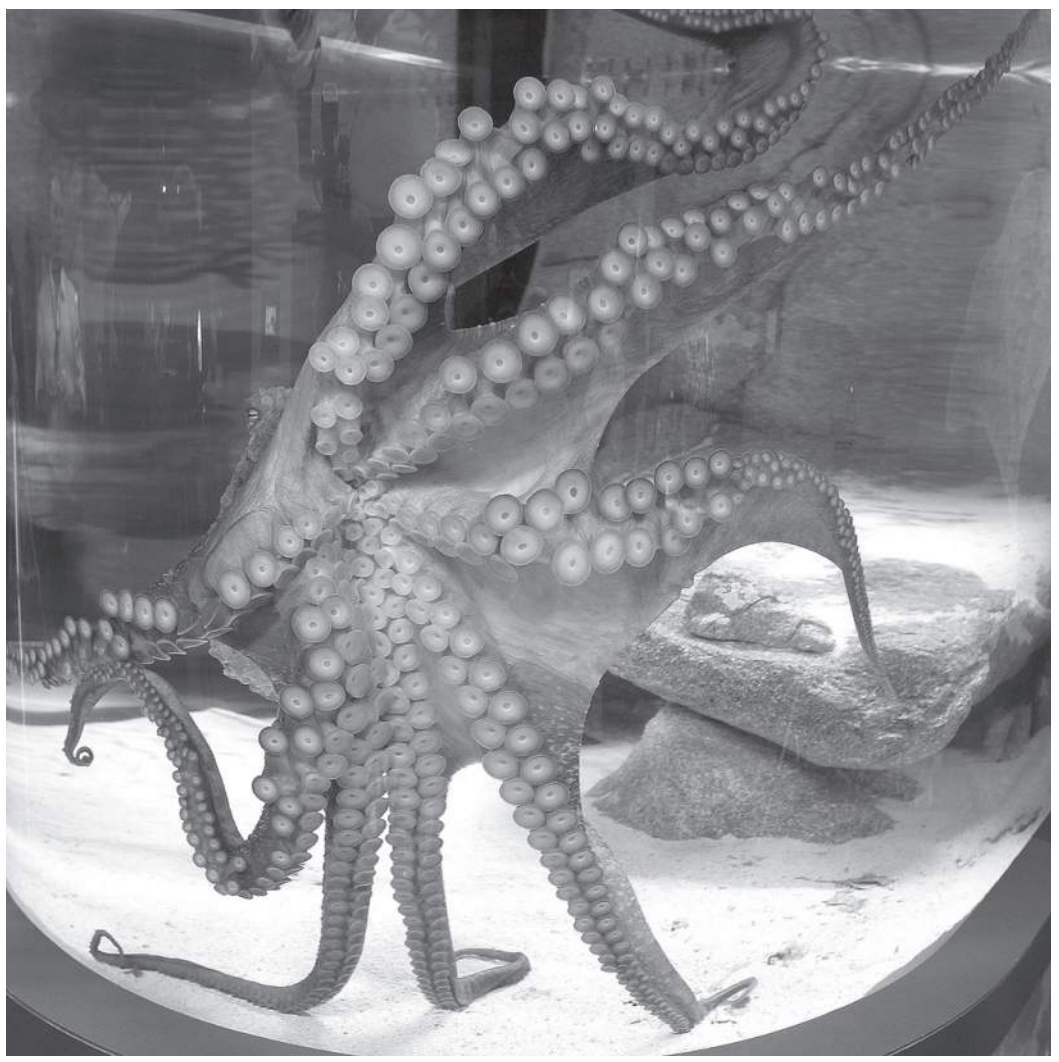
Cora was displaying her amazing and instinctive camouflage skills to the crowd of onlookers, Mohan said.

"It could mean she's excited, interested or just tired of the flash," he speculated.

If she had a nose, Cora would have turned it up to Scarlet and Octavia, the two other names zoo patrons had nominated that she could have chosen.

The octopus arrived at the zoo earlier this year minus a moniker, prompting officials to hold a contest to let her choose her own. More than 2,200 names were submitted, with the list narrowed to three that seemed appropriate for her species, said David Barnhardt, director of marketing and guest services.

The names of the people who submitted Cora as their choice were placed in a random drawing. The winner will receive an octopus prize pack and a behind-the-scenes tour of the zoo's new reef exhibit, Barnhardt said.



AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/MCT
Cora, the octopus, sticks to the glass in the new Journey to the Reef exhibit, June 25, 2012, at the Akron Zoo in Akron, Ohio. Cora picked its own name from three finalists.

Cora—a derivative of the word coral, the octopus' habitat and theme of the exhibit—was quick and decisive. It took her only five minutes to unscrew the lid from a large plastic container and pull out the first of three balls containing shrimp, her favorite treat.

By human standards, the octopus is highly intelligent and capable of learning new tricks, said Mohan, who has been with the zoo for seven years.

"We taught her to do that," he said as Cora balanced the ball on one of the suction cups, displaying it for the cameras.

Well, not exactly true, Mohan admitted, but possible.

Cora got visibly excited when trainers entered her habitat before placing the jar in her tank.

"She definitely knows when someone opens the door to her exhibit. She'll reach out to touch you or try to take things out of your hand. She's very curious," Mohan said.

And she knows her way around the lid on a jar that holds special treats. Trainers challenge the zoo's animals and keep them engaged with treat-filled enrichment toys, encouraging them to find a way to extract them, Barnhardt said.

"She's so intelligent, the possibilities are endless," he said. "They have been working with her, giving her a lot of enrichment," he said of the zoo's trainers.

Even after releasing the balls, Cora held out hope the jar still might hold tiny morsels of shrimp and refused to relinquish it from her grasp. Mohan said she would let go when it no longer held her interest.

"I wouldn't attempt to remove it while she is still looking for food. She would just grab you," he said.

DO YOUR PART

Go green before getting away

By TERRI BENNETT
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

Will you be getting away from the daily grind this summer? Before you jump in the car for a road trip or board a plane to a faraway destination, Do Your Part at home to conserve energy and money while you're away. Here is my checklist for going green—before you go.

(1) Turn down the water heater

One of the easiest ways to save energy while you're away is to turn down your water heater. For gas water heaters, simply turn the dial to the lowest setting but don't turn it off. Some water heaters make it even simpler by having "vacation" and/or "pilot" modes. For those with electric water heaters, flip its corresponding circuit breaker off before you leave. Just remember to reset the water heater when you return as it could take several hours to produce hot water.

(2) Adjust the air conditioning

There's no need to have the air conditioner running when no one is there to enjoy it. However, turning it all the way off could harm your houseplants and force your refrigerator to work overtime. Consider leaving your AC set to around 85 degrees while you're gone.

(3) Unplug electronics

Most of our electronics sip energy even when they are not being used. This phantom power accounts for about 10 percent of the energy we use at home. While you're on vacation, unplug many of your electronic devices. Those will include everything from televisions, computers, kitchen appliances, electric toothbrushes, and any charging cord.

(4) Put lights on a timer

Putting a few lights on a timer is a smart idea. It will cut down on your lighting costs and it will also make it look like someone is home. You'll want to be careful about which bulbs you put in which timer. For instance, certain digital ones are not designed to work with CFL bulbs and can actually create a fire hazard. Make sure to read directions that come with the timer and the particular bulb you plan to use with it.

(5) Refrigerator reminders

Our refrigerators take an enormous amount of electricity to run. If you are planning to be gone for a while, empty it out and unplug it. Don't forget to disconnect the water supply to it. However, if you'll only be away a matter of days, you can easily turn up the temperature setting a few degrees since no one will be opening and closing the refrigerator's doors.

Going away on vacation is a good way to find out exactly how much energy your home uses—even when you're not there. Read the meter when you leave and again when you return home. That way can Do Your Part to see which energy efficiency methods worked best and if you should do more the next time you're able to get away from it all.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com

Life&Style

Peter O'Toole retires with 'dry-eyed farewell'

In this 1961 file photo, actor Peter O'Toole is shown in the title role in the film "Lawrence of Arabia."

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Peter O'Toole is retiring from show business, saying he no longer has the heart for it and that it's time to "chuck in the sponge."

O'Toole, who turns 80 on Aug. 2, said in a statement Tuesday that his career on stage and screen fulfilled him emotionally and financially, bringing "me together with fine people, good companions with whom I've shared the inevitable lot of all actors: flops and hits."

"However, it's my belief that one should decide for oneself when it is time to end one's stay," he said. "So I bid the profession a dry-eyed and profoundly grateful farewell."

In retirement, O'Toole said he will focus on the third volume of his memoirs.

An eight-time Academy Award nominee who never won Hollywood's top acting honor, O'Toole shot to screen stardom 50 years ago in the title role of "Lawrence of Arabia," which earned seven Oscars, including best picture and director for David Lean.

O'Toole's grand performance as British adventurer T.E. Lawrence brought him his first best-actor nomination but set him on an unenviable path of Oscar futility. His eight losses without a win is a record among actors.

The honors stacked up quickly as O'Toole received Oscar nominations for 1964's "Becket," 1968's "The Lion in Winter," 1969's "Goodbye, Mr. Chips," 1972's "The Ruling Class," 1980's "The Stunt Man" and 1982's "My Favorite Year."

In the latter film, O'Toole played a dissolute actor preoccupied with drink and debauchery, seemingly a tailor-made role for a star known in his early years for epic carousing with such fellow partiers as Richard Burton, Richard Harris and Peter Finch.

O'Toole went into acting after serving in the Royal Navy, studying at London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. His early stage successes included the lead in "Hamlet" and Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice."

He was among a wily new breed of young British stage actors who soon would rise to Hollywood stardom.

"There was a group of us working-class actors, Peter O'Toole, Albert Finney, everybody, and we changed the way things were," Michael Caine said last weekend in an interview for his latest film, "The Dark Knight Rises."

Caine recalled being O'Toole's understudy in playwright Willis Hall's "The Long and the Short and the Tall," which opened in London in 1959.

"He did an incredible performance and he got 'Lawrence of Arabia,' and then I took it on tour," said two-time Oscar winner Caine.

In 2003, at age 70, O'Toole received an honorary Oscar, often given as a consolation prize for acclaimed actors and filmmakers who never managed to win Hollywood's top award.

The honorary Oscar came 20 years after his seventh nomination, for "My Favorite Year." By then it seemed a safe bet that O'Toole's prospects for another nomination were slim. He was still working regularly, but in smaller roles unlikely to earn awards attention.

O'Toole graciously accepted the honorary award, quipping, "Always a bridesmaid, never a bride, my foot," as he clutched his Oscar statuette.

O'Toole nearly turned down the award, sending a letter asking that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences hold off on the honorary Oscar until he turned 80.

Hoping another Oscar-worthy role would come his way, O'Toole wrote: "I am still in the game and might win the bugger outright."

O'Toole was still in the game. He earned his eighth best-actor nomination for 2006's "Venus," in which he played a lecherous old actor consigned to roles as feeble-minded royals or aged men on their death beds.

"If you fail the first time, try, try, try, try, try, try, try again," O'Toole said in a statement on nominations day. Unfortunately for O'Toole, he failed again. The best-actor prize went to Forest Whitaker for "The Last King of Scotland."

Still, O'Toole had the esteem of Hollywood from that honorary prize a few years earlier.

"I have my very own Oscar now to be with me until death us do part," O'Toole told the academy crowd that night.

AP

Models pose beside Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, center, Louis Vuitton CEO Yves Carcelle, second from left, and Vuitton second-in-command Jordi Konstans in front of the windows Kusama helped design at Vuitton's flagship Fifth Avenue store for the unveiling of a new collaborative collection by Kusama and Vuitton creative director Marc Jacobs in New York, Tuesday, July 10, 2012.

New Vuitton-Kusama collection is a frenzy of dots

NEW YORK (AP)—French fashion house Louis Vuitton is again putting a bit of Japanese culture on the arms of its customers.

The brand, best known for leather goods, formally unveiled a new collection on Tuesday created in collaboration between Yayoi Kusama and Louis Vuitton creative director Marc Jacobs. The theme is bold, graphic polka dots—a signature of the artist—offered in a frenzied series of sizes and colors.

Jacobs and Kusama started with inspiration of "obsession and seriality," according to a company statement.

The dots cover shoes, handbags, shirts, skirts and sunglasses, among other items.

Jacobs met Kusama in 2006. He is an avid art collector and was a fan of Kusama's sculptures and paintings. "The obsessive character and the innocence of her artwork touch me," Jacobs said.

In honor of the new products, Louis Vuitton created a splashy display for the brand's flagship Manhattan store on Fifth Avenue that pays homage to three Kusama motifs: "Beginning of the Universe," "Eternal Blooming Flowers in My Mind" and "Self-Obliteration." The building facade is wrapped in a pattern of dots.

The timing of the product launch and building installation coincides with the Whitney Museum of American Art's new exhibition of Kusama's work.

A decade ago, Jacobs and Louis Vuitton had great success collaborating with Japanese designer Takashi Murakami on a series of pop-art products that became instant must-haves among the fashion crowd and spawned a seemingly infinite number of mass-market items covered in similar-style rainbow-colored monograms and logos.

US strip club sues 'Octomom' for cancelled shows

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP)—The woman known as "Octomom" is facing a lawsuit after backing out of a deal to strip at a Florida club.

T's Lounge in West Palm Beach has sued Nadya Suleman, who had agreed to dance topless in eight shows that were to begin Wednesday. The club is seeking an emergency injunction to keep her from appearing at a competing club.

Suleman has been summoned to appear in court, but no hearing has yet been set. It is unclear whether the matter will be resolved before she's set to take the stage at The Playhouse Gentleman's Club in Hollywood on Friday.

Phone and email messages left for Gina Rodriguez, a spokeswoman for Suleman, were not returned Tuesday.

The dispute began almost as soon as Suleman signed a contract June 3 to appear at T's Lounge in what was being billed as her "first feature dance appearance." Two days later, a representative for Suleman sent notice she was cancelling because she was angered by a television interview in which a club bartender called her "crazy."

"She will not be defamed by the club that was booking her, nor walk into a bad situation," the message said.

Suleman's contract says she must give 35 days' notice. The lawsuit says she only gave 34. The contract also bars Suleman from appearing at another strip club within 50 miles and 90 days of the scheduled appearances in West Palm Beach.

A copy of the contract is attached to the court filing, but the amount Suleman was to be paid has been removed.

T's Lounge is suing for an amount in excess of $15,000. It claims the exact damages stemming from Suleman's cancellation are "unascertainable" and that she caused "irreparable harm."

Meanwhile, ads cajoling men to "Come See Octomom Take it Off" have appeared in advance of her scheduled appearance Friday in nearby Broward County. Frank Cerabino, a columnist for The Palm Beach Post, has characterized it as "a fight between neighboring South Florida counties for the bragging rights—or maybe it's sagging rights."

An attorney for Tease Lounge Inc., which operates T's, did not return a call seeking comment.

Suleman, who lives in La Habra, California, is the mother of 14 children including octuplets born in 2009. She has struggled financially, recently declaring bankruptcy.

She previously sold photos of herself and her children to tabloids. She recently appeared in a topless spread in a British magazine.

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Savages
Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sunday thru Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Taylor Kitsch, Salma Hayek
Crime • Rated R

Synopsis
A pair of West Coast weed dealers get tangled up in a Mexican cartel's drug business after they kidnap their friend in this Universal Pictures production. Oliver Stone directs from a script he wrote with Shane Salerno and Don Winslow, whose novel the film is based on.

Katy Perry: Part of Me
Friday and Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sunday thru Thursday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Katy Perry
Musical • Rated PG

Synopsis
Get to know the woman behind the pop icon as singer Katy Perry brings fans behind the scenes of her California Dreams Tour in this colorful, intimate musical documentary.

The Amazing Spider-Man
Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:55
Sunday thru Thursday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Action, Fantasy, Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
"The Amazing Spider-Man" is the story of Peter Parker (Garfield), an outcast high schooler who was abandoned by his parents as a boy, leaving him to be raised by his Uncle Ben (Sheen) and Aunt May (Field). Like most teenagers, Peter is trying to figure out who he is and how he got to be the person he is today. Peter is also finding his way with his first high school crush, Gwen Stacy (Stone), and together, they struggle with love, commitment, and secrets. As Peter discovers a mysterious briefcase that belonged to his father, he begins a quest to understand his parents' disappearance—leading him directly to Oscorp and the lab of Dr. Curt Connors (Ifans), his father's former partner. As Spider-Man is set on a collision course with Connors' alter-ego.

Magic Mike
Friday and Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:45
Sunday thru Thursday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Channing Tatum, Alex Pettyfer
Comedy, Drama • Rated R

Ted
Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 10:05
Sunday thru Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Comedy • Rated R

Brave
Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday thru Thursday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Kelly MacDonald, Emma Thompson
Children's/family • Rated PG

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted
Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday thru Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer
Children's/family • Rated PG

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Judge seeks audit of Chris Brown's community work

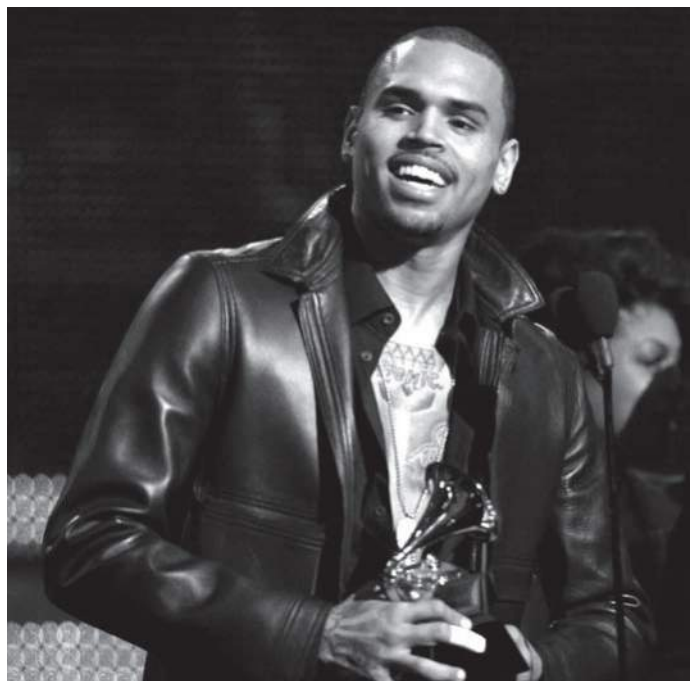
LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge ordered an audit of Chris Brown's community service progress Tuesday after a prosecutor handling his felony assault case cited a possible discrepancy in the amount of work he has performed.

Deputy District Attorney Mary Murray requested the audit because she says the records are not clear on how many hours Brown performed and where the work has been done. Brown had been allowed to perform six months' worth of community labor in his home state of Virginia, but a judge said probation officials in Los Angeles should review detailed records to ascertain how much work he has actually done.

Superior Court Judge Patricia Schnegg said Brown had completed a significant number of hours, but did not elaborate.

Brown's attorney Pat Harris did not object to the audit, and said after the hearing the issue was related to which jurisdiction his client performed his community service in.

The judge said part of the issue was that the court hadn't received detailed logs of Brown's community service, which is supposed to comprise of graffiti removal, roadside cleanup and other manual labor. Schnegg said those logs had previously been provided, but not for recent updates.



AP

In this Feb. 12, 2012 file photo, Chris Brown accepts the award for best R&B album for "F.A.M.E." during the 54th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Brown, 23, remains on probation for beating his then-girlfriend Rihanna in February 2009. He has completed domestic violence and anger management counseling.

Schnegg ordered Brown to appear at the next hearing, tentatively scheduled for Aug. 21. It will be the first time Brown has had to appear in court in several months, and the R&B singer has generally received favorable reports from probation officials and Schnegg.

There was no mention of the recent New York City bottle-throwing nightclub brawl that left Brown with a cut on his chin, or a woman's claim that the singer had snatched her cellphone in Miami after she tried to take a picture of him. The melee occurred members of singer Drake's entourage stopped Brown and his group from leaving the club W.i.P., though neither entertainer has been arrested. Drake has said he was leaving the club when the fight began.

Brown's attorney Mark Geragos asked that the singer's probation be terminated in February. But a judge declined, stating that the Grammy nominee should complete more of his community service obligations.

At the time, officials reported that Brown had completed half of the six months' worth of roadside cleanup, graffiti removal and other manual labor that he was ordered to do after pleading guilty.

Brown is serving a five year probation sentence.

Katie Couric, Danica take a spin at Indy

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Katie Couric feels bad for Ann Curry.

The former co-host of NBC's "Today" show was in Indianapolis on Tuesday to take a drive around the Indianapolis Motor Speedway with Danica Patrick. The feature will air sometime after Couric's syndicated talk show, called "Katie," debuts in September.

When Couric left "Today" to go to CBS, Curry was passed over for the top job for Meredith Vieira. And Curry was recently replaced as a co-host by Savannah Guthrie after about a year on the job.

Asked about Curry, Couric first said: "That is such old news. Are you guys really still writing about that?"

"I felt bad for Ann and I felt bad for the whole team on the show," she said. "Transitions like that are really tough. But I know she'll go on and do great things."

Patrick said she was happy to make a visit to the Speedway. She is set to return to the Brickyard at the end of July for her first race since she left the IndyCar Series to focus on NASCAR full-time.

AP

Journalist and television personality Katie Couric waves as she walks away from a car that she rode laps with race car driver Danica Patrick at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Tuesday, July 10, 2012.

"It's good to be back here," Patrick said. "I didn't think my first lap in a stock car around here would be a school stock car, but I thought it was a good lead into a couple of weeks from now when we're actually here for the real deal."

Couric said her interview with Patrick won't be part of the show's debut, but it's "going to be early in the season."

Patrick also took Couric on a trip around the famous track.

"We were riding together out there on the track, we were learning about racing," Patrick said. "Even I was still learning about racing. We were just having some fun."

Driving at the higher speeds isn't something Couric is used to.

"I was very, very, very quiet," Couric said. "I was nervous at first, but I had a lot of fun. I'm a huge fan of Danica's and have watched her career for many years now."

Spike Lee works on Michael Jackson documentary

NEW YORK (AP)—Spike Lee worked with Michael Jackson and considered him a friend, but the director says even he learned a lot combing through footage of the icon for a planned documentary about the singer's "Bad" album.

Lee calls it a "treasure chest of findings."

"We have footage in this documentary that no one's ever seen, stuff that Michael shot himself, behind-the-scenes stuff," he said in an interview Monday. "We had complete access to the vaults of Michael Jackson. ... He wrote 60 demos for the `Bad' record. Only 11 made it. So we got to hear a lot of that stuff, too, so it was just a great experience."

He added: "You don't have to be a Michael Jackson-head to enjoy this."

Lee

Lee's documentary, which does not yet have an official title, will be part of a flood of material to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the "Bad" album, Jackson's follow-up to "Thriller" that included hits like the title track, "Smooth Criminal," ``The Way You Make Me Feel" and more. The album is being rereleased Sept.18 with additional tracks, a DVD and other bonus material; Lee's film is due to come out later this year, but no date has been set.

Besides Jackson's artistry, Lee said the documentary will show a more personal side of the late legend.

"He had a great sense of humor, and he was funny—so you'll see a lot of that stuff," he said.

Lee interviewed people ranging from Kanye West to Mariah Carey to L.A. Reid to Sheryl Crow, who was Jackson's background singer on the "Bad" tour.

"We really divided it into two things: Artists today who were influenced by Michael, and then people who worked side by side—musicians, songwriters, technicians, engineers, people at the label, who were all committed to Michael, to the follow-up to the biggest record of all time, which still is `Thriller.'"

Tatum: 'Magic Mike' might morph into musical

LONDON (AP)—After being rather exposed in "Magic Mike" the movie, Channing Tatum is teasing his audience with the possibility of "Magic Mike" the musical.

The 32-year-old American actor is working on plans to turn the big screen stripper story into a theater production. Tatum, a former stripper himself, says he hasn't "cracked what the actual show is" yet, but the one thing he knows is that he wants the musical version to be "very interactive."

The film, directed by Steven Soderbergh, is about the exploits of a group of male strippers at a club in Tampa, Florida.

Tatum was in London with co-star Matthew McConaughey for the European premiere of the movie on Tuesday evening.

"Magic Mike" opens in the U.K. on Friday.

AP

U.S actors Channing Tatum, left, and Matthew McConaughey arrive at a special film screening of 'Magic Mike' at the Mayfair Hotel, central London, Tuesday, July 10, 2012.

Courtney Love's ex-assistant sues for unpaid wages

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Courtney Love's former assistant is suing over unpaid wages and claims the rocker made unethical requests such as instructing her to hire a hacker and falsify legal letters.

Love

Jessica Labrie filed the wrongful termination, wage and breach of contract lawsuit in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

The suit states Labrie worked as Love's administrative assistant for about a year in 2010 and 2011, but was fired after complaining she was owed thousands in unpaid wages and expenses for business trips. The lawsuit claims Labrie suffered from headaches, insomnia and other medical conditions as a result of Love's conduct. Her attorney, Joshua Gruenberg, says Love wanted a hacker to change records to businesses she owned or believed she owned, but Labrie refused.

Attempts to find a current representative for Love were unsuccessful.

Car hits, kills Comic-Con fan in San Diego street

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A Comic-Con fan was fatally injured Tuesday when she was hit by a car on her way to wait in line for a "Twilight" panel at the San Diego Convention Center.

The 53-year-old woman ran into the middle of Harbor Drive and tried to stop in her tracks but it was too late," said San Diego Police Lt. Andra Brown. The 67-year-old driver who hit her cooperated with investigators and will not be cited, Brown said.

More than 100,000 pop-culture aficionados are expected to flood the San Diego Convention Center from Thursday to Sunday. Many fans have already arrived.

Fans told U-T San Diego the woman had been in line since Sunday for a Thursday panel on "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2," the last film in the hugely popular "Twilight" series, set for release Nov. 16.

Lionsgate and Summit Entertainment, the film's distributors, released the following statement late Tuesday: "Lionsgate, Summit and the entire `Twilight' community are saddened by the death of a Comic-Con fan today due to a traffic accident during the hours leading up to this year's convention in San Diego. Our thoughts and condolences go out to the victim's family and friends. She will be respectfully remembered this Thursday in Hall H."

'Hunger Games' finales set for 2014, 2015 release

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The final book in "The Hunger Games" trilogy is coming to the big-screen in two parts starting in 2014.

Lionsgate Films announced Tuesday that "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1" will be released Nov. 21, 2014, and "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2" will follow on Nov. 20, 2015.

The filmmakers are following the lead of two other teen-based literary franchises, "Harry Potter" and "Twilight," whose final books were broken into two parts for film.

"Mockingjay, Part 1" will come out a year after the Nov. 22, 2012, release of "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire," the second film based on Suzanne Collins' novels about televised death matches in a future North American society.

Starring Jennifer Lawrence, "The Hunger Games" debuted last March and has taken in $404 million domestically and $678 million worldwide.

AP

In this image released by Lionsgate, Jennifer Lawrence portrays Katniss Everdeen in a scene from "The Hunger Games," opening on Friday, March 23, 2012.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Alicia Keys' nonprofit to honor Oprah Winfrey

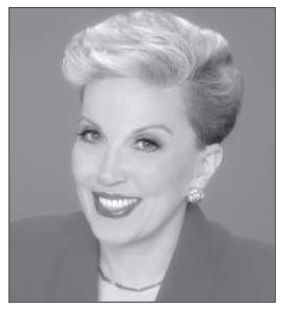
NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey is getting a tribute from Alicia Keys. Keys announced Tuesday that her organization, Keep a Child Alive, will honor Winfrey at its Black Ball event on Nov. 1. Key says in a statement that the media mogul is "a personal inspiration to me because her philanthropic work truly comes from the heart." Winfrey's humanitarian efforts include building schools in South Africa. Keep a Child Alive was founded in 2003. It assists those affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa and India. Keys says this year's Black Ball will pay "special tribute to the empowerment of women—the heartbeat, soul, and backbone of the AIDS movement." The ninth annual event will take place at New York's Hammerstein Ballroom. Past honorees include former President Bill Clinton, Sir Richard Branson and Bono.

US chides NKorea over unauthorized Disney display

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. is urging North Korea to respect intellectual property rights after an unauthorized stage performance of Disney characters at a concert for the reclusive country's new young leader. But State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell said Tuesday that since Washington does not have diplomatic relations with Pyongyang it could not raise the issue as it would in other countries. He broadly urged North Korea to meet its international obligations. North Korean state TV this week showed performers dressed as Minnie Mouse, Tigger and other characters dancing against a backdrop of footage from Disney movies, an unusual departure for the isolated nation. New leader Kim Jong Un has sought to project an image of youth and modernity. The Walt Disney Co. says it did not authorize the performance.

Email, online thank-yous suffice in stressful times

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "Wants to Do the Right Thing" (April 18) asked about using email to thank those who donated to a fundraiser for her son, who has bone cancer. What is wrong with that?

I have been there. One of my twin boys was diagnosed with cancer at age 2. I was grateful for all the help my family and friends gave me, but I did not always have the time or energy to devote to writing thank-you cards.

You really have to have experienced this kind of long-term stress and trauma to understand. It takes all the strength you have to just get through each day without breaking down. For larger donations, I would write a card when I could or print some out on my computer. Sometimes I recruited a friend or family member to handle thank-you notes. People always ask, "What can I do?" Well, assign them this task!

Another way of thanking people was through a blog, like CaringBridge. These free websites were a great way to keep in touch with people and let them know what was going on. I often posted general notes of thanks there, then emailed everyone who contributed with a link to the site. The truth is, it was difficult to accept charity and help from others, and I often found myself overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support.

TRULY THANKFUL IN NEW YORK

DEAR TRULY THANKFUL: Thank YOU for your heartfelt letter and helpful suggestions. I reminded "Wants" that writing personal thank-you notes was the proper thing to do, but not all readers agreed. Their comments:

DEAR ABBY: Any spare time that mom has needs to be spent with her family or taking care of herself. They are going through a very difficult time.

I believe that in this day and age, the majority of people would understand and not expect a thank-you note for their donation. So a quick email of thanks would be more than appreciated. Email is more acceptable now, especially among younger people. If this is all she has time for, it's better than no thank-you at all.

KELLY IN WINCHESTER, VA.

DEAR ABBY: To that mother of the child with cancer: Instead of writing thank-you notes to all the people who help you in the community, please spend that time with your son. Someday, return the favor with some other family's child. Many families in our town cope with childhood cancer. We help each other. It is important that you spend every precious moment with him, not writing cards. We all understand.

PAYING IT FORWARD IN CLYDE, OHIO

DEAR ABBY: You correctly advised "Wants" that a handwritten, personal note was in order. However, having found myself in this position, I sometimes first send out a quick "blanket" email to all the donors:

"Dear Friends and Family, you are great to contribute to our cause. Please forgive this email reply, but we want you to know right away how much your support means to us. You'll be hearing from us personally as soon as possible."

This acknowledges the generosity immediately, while relieving some stress for the writer at a busy time.

WISE IN WASHINGTON

DEAR ABBY: Please tell "Wants" that her son should write some of the letters if he's old enough. The notes should be to people he knows. Folks won't expect a thank-you right away.

CANCER SURVIVOR IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR ABBY: Handwrite those notes. Make them brief. Following my wife's death two years ago, I handwrote about 400 thank-yous to those who had sent cards and flowers or made donations. It was cathartic for me, and it recognized the efforts of those who contributed.

DOING THE RIGHT THING IN MICHIGAN

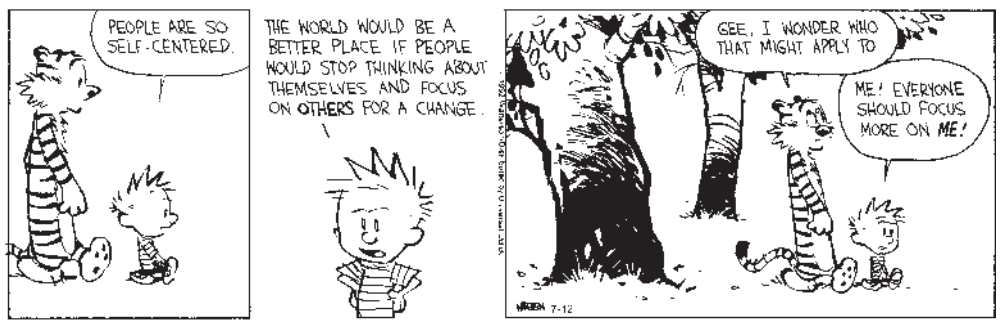
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

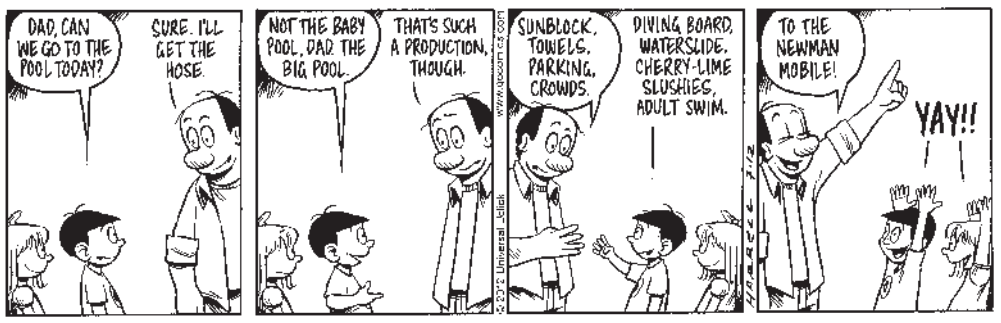

PEOPLE ARE SO SELF-CENTERED.
THE WORLD WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE IF PEOPLE WOULD STOP THINKING ABOUT THEMSELVES AND FOCUS ON OTHERS FOR A CHANGE.
GEE, I WONDER WHO THAT MIGHT APPLY TO
ME! EVERYONE SHOULD FOCUS MORE ON ME!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

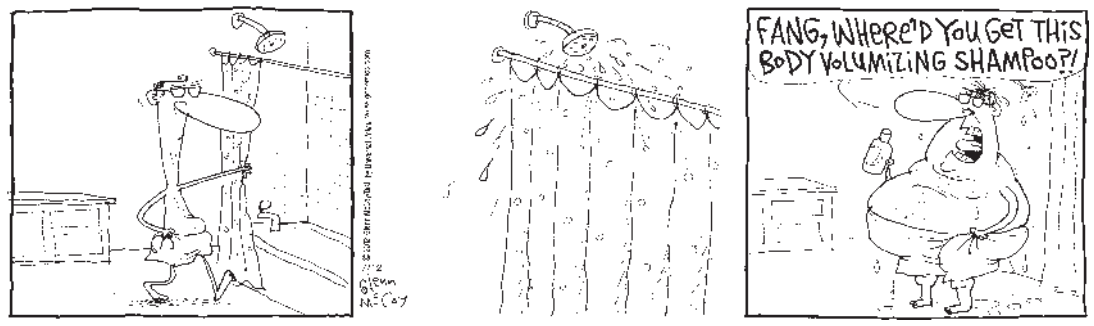
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD, CAN WE GO TO THE POOL TODAY?
SURE. I'LL GET THE HOSE.
NOT THE BABY POOL, DAD. THE BIG POOL.
THAT'S SUCH A PRODUCTION, THOUGH.
SUNBLOCK. TOWELS. PARKING. CROWDS.
DIVING BOARD. WATERSLIDE. CHERRY-LIME SLUSHIES. ADULT SWIM.
TO THE NEWMAN MOBILE!
YAY!!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Talk show host Kelly
5 Urban transport
8 Bridge coup
12 "American —"
13 Tramcar fill
14 Blood (Pref.)
15 Cat call?
16 "Gosh!"
17 State with conviction
18 Hero meat
20 Dervishes
22 Still
23 Profit
24 Intends
27 Butt holders
32 "The Raven" writer
33 Place-kicker's pride
34 Ball-bearing item
35 Discourtesy
38 With 3-Down, info for interbreeding
39 Rage
40 Altar affirmative
42 Canada's capital
45 Rang out
49 Bygone flock of New Zealand
50 Coll. transcript no.
52 Irritating vapor
53 Initial chip
54 Last (Abbr.)
55 Great Lake
56 Clarinetist's need
57 Storm center
58 On pension (Abbr.)

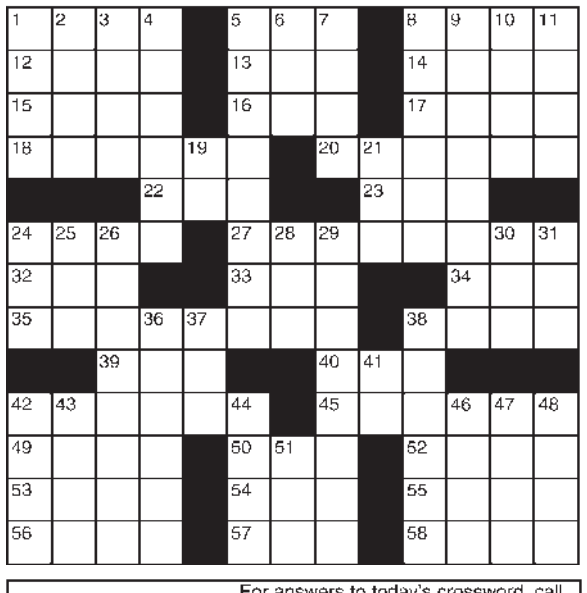
DOWN

1 Edges
2 Concept
3 See 38-Across
4 Nonstop
5 Think deeply
6 Exist
7 Vegan's no-no
8 Half a dinner-table pair
9 Rise
10 Cupid's specialty
11 Takes blades to blades
19 Yours truly
21 Pismire
24 Spring mo.
25 Chit
26 Ponder
28 "Help!"
29 Be indecisive
30 Longing
31 Witness
36 Got the lead out?
37 Fresh
38 Happy Gilmore, e.g.
41 Accomplish
42 Mr. Sharif
43 Color quality
44 Malaria symptom
46 Entice
47 Send forth
48 Landowner's paper
51 Thickness

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	E	N	S	■	C	O	W	■	S	W	A	B
A	R	A	T	■	A	N	I	■	P	A	C	O
W	A	I	E	R	B	E	D	■	A	I	N	O
S	T	O	V	E	■	■	E	M	C	E	E	S
■	■	■	E	X	P	O	■	O	E	R	■	■
D	A	W	N	■	E	W	E	S	■	B	O	A
O	V	A	■	W	F	I	T	S	■	O	P	S
W	E	T	■	O	P	E	C	■	M	Y	T	H
■	■	E	V	E	■	T	H	A	I	■	■	■
A	C	R	O	S	S	■	■	C	R	A	B	S
L	O	S	T	■	W	A	T	E	R	L	O	O
M	A	K	E	■	A	G	O	■	O	S	L	O
S	T	I	R	■	Y	A	M	■	R	O	A	N

Yesterday's answer 7-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kimberly Perry, 29; Topher Grace, 34; Michelle Rodriguez, 34; Bill Cosby, 75.

Happy Birthday: Don't make hasty decisions where your home and family are concerned, but consider the opportunities that come your way with regard to professional gains. Do whatever it takes to secure your position or increase your earning potential. Who you know can make a big difference. Join organizations that raise your profile. Your numbers are 5, 16, 20, 27, 34, 44, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Move money around to cover your costs. A deal being offered is too good to refuse. A partnership will be a stabilizing factor in your life. New surroundings will give you a creative injection that improves your skills and productivity. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Listen to your heart, and don't be influenced by someone trying to manipulate your decision. Concentrate on creating your own scenario and deciding what works for you. You will learn a lot if you follow your own path. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let the actions of others cause doubt. There is plenty you can do to improve your life if you sign up for events, activities and lessons that will benefit you. Don't be a follower when you are a leader at heart. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Keep up with the trends and the times. Updates must be made, both personally and professionally. What you learn now will help you in the future. Don't pass up an opportunity to acquire skills or to get involved in a serviceable venture. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Rely on what you know, not how you feel about what's going on around you. A costly mistake will occur if you listen to someone you love instead of relying on facts and figures to lead you in the right direction. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Someone's action is likely to disturb you. Take steps to secure your position and protect your assets and reputation. Travel to discuss what you want to see happen face-to-face with someone important. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You need a change of pace and surroundings. Don't be fooled into taking an expensive trip. You'll get just as much out of a more budget-friendly destination that lets you enjoy people, places or things you don't see that often. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't get wrapped up in someone else's melodrama. Back away from anyone trying to dump guilt or responsibilities in your lap. Do something that allows you to be creative and productive. Travel for business connections or knowledge. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Excess and opportunity will go hand in hand. Showing off a little will impress the right people. Your drive, attitude and ability to take action will lead to a proposal that will be too hard to turn down. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Listen carefully. You don't want to miss important information that will influence the choice you make. Not everyone will be on your team, so be careful not to fall for a biased point of view. Rely on what you know. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Make a point of spending time with positive people who have similar interests. An opportunity to make a move geographically or to try out a different way of life is apparent. Educational pursuits will give you greater skills and confidence. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't take unnecessary risks. You must stick to what you know and do best to avoid suffering a loss. Too much of anything will not bring you the success you hope to achieve. Moderation and common sense will be required. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, creative, extreme and determined. You are a doer.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				3			7	
	8			6		1		4
					5		2	
			4			6		
9	6						5	3
		2			1			
	7		1					
2		5		4			9	
	4			7				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	6	7	5	4	8	3	9	1
3	9	1	6	7	2	5	4	8
8	4	5	9	3	1	7	6	2
7	5	6	8	9	4	1	2	3
4	2	3	1	5	6	9	8	7
1	8	9	7	2	3	6	5	4
9	1	2	3	8	5	4	7	6
6	7	4	2	1	9	8	3	5
5	3	8	4	6	7	2	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SECRET SOUTHWESTERN CLIFFS **Solution: 11 letters**

L	O	S	G	H	O	R	S	E	S	H	O	E	R	P
H	A	D	N	A	R	N	R	S	E	K	A	L	K	E
P	O	N	A	I	P	O	L	E	(E)	(K)	(I)	(H)	A	E
L	R	N	O	R	S	A	C	Y	D	N	C	C	N	R
A	E	A	E	I	O	A	R	K	E	L	U	A	A	A
T	V	E	O	Y	T	L	B	K	U	L	V	D	B	T
E	I	N	S	O	M	A	O	G	S	A	L	N	N	T
A	R	E	T	F	D	O	N	C	J	T	O	A	Y	L
U	J	E	G	N	E	I	O	O	A	I	O	S	V	E
O	M	U	A	A	K	R	B	N	L	N	B	N	M	S
W	O	L	N	S	P	R	R	I	T	A	Y	A	E	N
E	S	D	K	I	I	A	M	Y	D	R	R	O	O	A
I	O	C	O	D	P	R	R	G	O	B	A	R	N	K
V	U	N	G	O	E	E	E	I	L	N	I	I	O	E
B	S	E	S	V	H	R	R	E	A	F	F	I	L	C

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Badger, Basins, Buckskin Gulch, Canyon, Cliff, Colorado, Corral, Dunes, Eons, Erosion, Hike, Honeymoon Trail, Hoodoo, Horseshoe, Iron, Island, Juniper, Kanab, Lakes, Lee's Ferry, Marble, National, Navajo Bridge, Page, Paria, Parks, Peer, Plateau, Pole, Rattlesnake, River, Rock, Sand, Scorpions, Stone, Totem, Valley, Vermilion, View

Yesterday's Answer: Friends

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 24, 28, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 or 36 send $6.95 each (US funds only, payable to Universal Uclick, plus $3 postage for the first book, $1 each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64105 or call toll-free, 1-800-591-6160. Order online at puzzles.com. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. 20 x 20 size.

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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

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Magdalena F. Orbino
Tel.# 235-1323

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RJ CNMI CORPORATION

(1) MANAGER for Bar/Restaurant
(2) SUPERVISOR for Bar/Restaurant
(1) COOK

Please call Sophie at 287-7617

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Jonny's Corporation
dba Jonny's Bar & Grill

is looking for:

Waitress
22 to 26 years old. Must be a High School Graduate. With Experience. Willing to work late hours.

Cook
With 5 years experience. Willing to work late hours

Please submit resume with a 2"x2" picture to Jonny's Bar & Grill.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: July 5, 2012 **Close Date:** July 12, 2012

Position: (1) Sales Clerk
Salary: $5.05 per hour

Job Qualification: High School Graduated / (2) Years Experience / Preferably Chinese Speaking.

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I. Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495/8 ext. 5840/2.
Employment application forms are available at Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Giant blowout: NL routs AL in All-Star game

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Melky Cabrera and Pablo Sandoval sent the National League to a big early lead. Matt Cain and the rest of an imposing pitching staff finished off a Giant blowout in the All-Star game.

Flashing their bright orange spikes and booming bats, the San Francisco sluggers keyed a five-run blitz against Justin Verlander in the first inning that powered the NL to an 8-0 romp over the American League on Tuesday night.

Cabrera homered and won the MVP award in the ballpark where he played last season, and Cain got the win in the NL's most-lopsided All-Star victory.

Chipper Jones singled in his final All-Star at-bat at age 40 as the NL, under retired manager Tony La Russa, once again claimed home-field advantage in the World Series.

La Russa asked Jones to address the team before the game and the Atlanta third baseman told players: "Whether you're 19 or 40, we are all equals here."

"I am not going out losing my last one. So, you with me?" he added.

Said La Russa: "I thought Chipper set the tone."

Jones received one of the loudest ovations during the pregame introductions and many players said in recent days they were honored to be All-Stars alongside him.

"I was glad Tony asked me to say something," Jones said. "I just wanted the guys to know that nothing is a given. You don't know when your last one is going to be. Don't miss this opportunity."

The NL didn't miss much early.

Ryan Braun, an All-Star again after his drug suspension was overturned last winter, doubled, tripled and made a fine catch in the outfield to help give the NL its first three-game winning streak in two decades.

Teen sensation Bryce Harper had a shaky All-Star debut with a walk, strikeout and missed catch. Fellow rookie Mike Trout, only 20, showed off his dynamic skills.

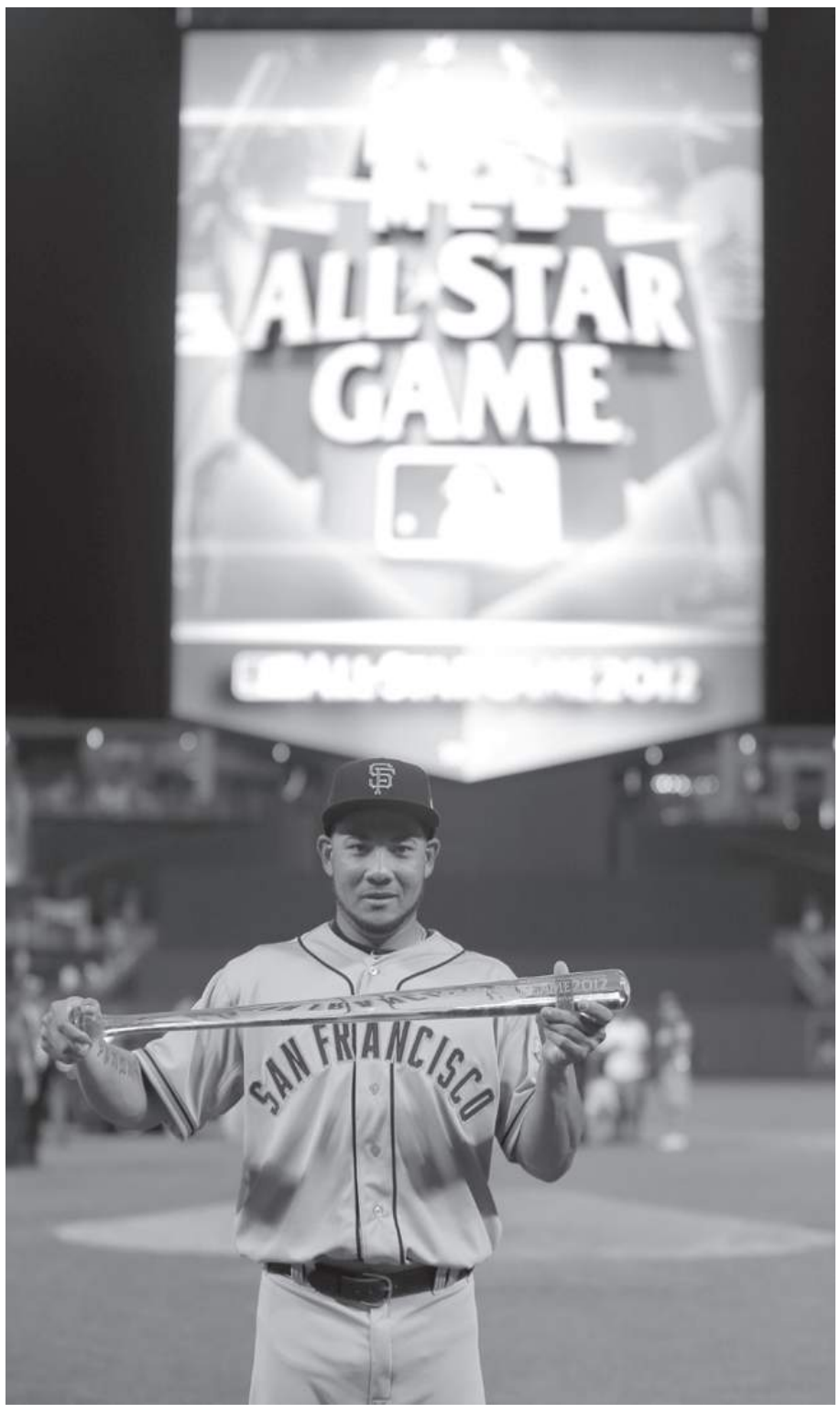
Cain combined with Stephen Strasburg, R.A. Dickey, Aroldis Chapman and the rest of a lights-out staff on a six-hitter.

The game was pretty much decided a few moments after it started.

Sandoval hit the first bases-loaded triple in All-Star history off Verlander, who couldn't control his 100 mph heat. Cabrera singled and scored the first run, then hit a two-run homer against Matt Harrison in a three-run fourth.

"I don't get many triples," said the slow-footed Sandoval, known as Kung Fu Panda. "We had some fun with that in the dugout."

Nicknamed the Melk-man, Cabrera is with his fourth team in four years. The former Royals outfielder drew big cheers as he received the MVP award, his mother next to him.



AP

National League's Melky Cabrera, of the San Francisco Giants, shows off his MVP trophy after the MLB All-Star baseball game Tuesday, July 10, 2012, in Kansas City, Mo.

"I didn't come to win an MVP. That's just a surprise," he said. "The same opportunity that Kansas City gave me last year is the same opportunity that San Francisco is giving me every day to showcase my talent. Again, I'm just very thankful for the fans that voted for me to come here."

San Francisco fans, who made a late voting push to elect Sandoval and Cabrera to starting spots, might really appreciate the victory come October. The Giants are a half-game behind the first-place Dodgers in the NL West.

Rafael Furcal also hit a three-bagger, making the NL the first league with three in an All-Star game.

As the All-Stars returned to Kansas City for the first time since 1973, La Russa bid a fond farewell to the national stage in the city where he played for his first major league team.

Having retired after managing St. Louis to last year's World Series title, La Russa became just the fourth inactive manager to skipper an All-Star team and improved to 4-2.

"Just lucky, like I've been 30 years," La Russa said.

After all the talk about AL dominance during the offseason when Albert Pujols and Prince Fielder switched leagues, the NL boosted its advantage to 43-38-2 and won for just the third time in the 10 years the All-Star game has been used to determine home-field advantage in the World Series. La Russa's Cardinals benefited from last year's NL All-Star victory, with St. Louis winning Games 6 and 7 at home against Ron Washington's Texas Rangers.

"It's very disappointing, because we're competitors and we want to win," said Washington, who lost for the second straight year. "They came out. They swung the bats. Once they got the lead, started bringing those arms in their hand, and they got the job done."

Jones, retiring at the end of the season, also had one last All-Star moment, pinch hitting in the sixth and singling just past second baseman Ian Kinsler and into right field. Jones chuckled as the ball rolled through.

At 19 the youngest position player in All-Star history, Harper had a shaky start when he entered in the fifth. The heralded rookie, wearing shiny gold shoes, didn't flash a Gold Glove and lost Mike Napoli's routine fly to left in the lights, allowing it to drop behind him for a single.

Harper then caught Kinsler's bases-loaded flyball to end the inning, earning applause from the crowd of 40,933 at Kauffman Stadium, spruced up by a $250 million renovation that was completed three years ago.

Harper tagged up on a long fly after his walk in the fifth, but got himself hung up in a rundown and tagged out.

Trout, among a record five All-Star rookies, had a nice showing against two very different pitchers. The Angels outfielder singled and stole a base against Dickey's knuckleball, then drew a walk against Chapman and his 101 mph heat.

"I'm going to remember this the rest of my life," Trout said.

Cain pitched the 22nd perfect game in big league history last month. He didn't have to be perfect in this one, allowing one hit in two innings for the win.

"For those guys to go out and score five runs in the first inning was definitely a little more relaxing for me," he said. "But I still tried to stay focused."

Cain was followed by 10 relievers, with Jonathan Papelbon getting the last out with a runner on third base.

Verlander had a puzzling outing. In games that count, he hasn't allowed five runs in an inning since April 2010, according to STATS LLC. He became the first All-Star to give up a five-spot since Houston's Roger Clemens in front of his hometown fans in 2004.

"It was pretty difficult for me to get the ball down today," said Verlander, who admitted he approached this differently than a regular-season start.

In a 35-pitch inning, he threw five pitches clocked at 100 mph and another at 101.

"But I had fun," he said. "That's why I don't try to throw 100 in the first inning. But this is for the fans. It doesn't usually work out too well for me."

A crowd clad in red, white and blue T-shirts cheered during pregame introductions for hometown star Billy Butler, who dropped his cap when he tried to wave it. Fans booed the New York Yankees' Robinson Cano, who angered local fans when he bypassed Butler for Monday night's Home Run Derby.

Not since Game 7 of Kansas City's 1985 World Series win over the Cardinals had the baseball world descended on the Royals' ballpark, a rare 1970s beauty known for its 322-foot-wide fountain in right and the 105-foot-high scoreboard topped by a crown.

Cabrera singled with one out in the first and scored on a double to deep right by Braun, the reigning NL MVP.

Verlander threw six straight balls during consecutive two-out walks to Carlos Beltran and Buster Posey. Wearing shiny gold-and-orange spikes for the occasion, Sandoval sent a drive off the base of the wall in the right-field corner for a 4-0 lead.

He scored when Dan Uggla grounded to the shortstop hole and Fielder failed to come up with Derek Jeter's one-hop throw to first, leaving Uggla with an infield hit.

After Furcal tripled to right, pinch-hitter Matt Holliday singled for a 6-0 lead and Cabrera followed with a drive into the left-field bullpen.

As he neared second base, Cabrera stuck out his hand to shake with Cano, his buddy from their days together with the Yankees. Cano just let him pass by.

Dickey, a first-time All-Star at 37, pitched a one-hit sixth, plunking Paul Konerko on his shoulder with a pitch.

Although he has a big league-best 12-1 record, Dickey was denied the start - possibly because of the difficulty of catching his knuckler. He brought along an oversized glove from Mets catcher Josh Thole that was used by Carlos Ruiz, who replaced Posey behind the plate in the sixth.

"I really appreciate the warm reception by the fans in Kansas City. Maybe a lot of them have heard my story," Dickey said.

"It was definitely worth the wait," he said.

La Russa, usually serious and tense after games, was playful after his finale, chanting "Mel-ky! Mel-ky! Mel-ky!" as the MVP walked to the podium.

"If you're trying to win one game, there's not a better manager out there," Braun said. "It's only fitting that he went out with a win."

Attorney says charge vs Vikings' Peterson a lie

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Minnesota Vikings star Adrian Peterson was a victim, not the aggressor, during an altercation with authorities that led to his arrest at a Houston night club over the weekend, his attorney said Monday.

Peterson, a Texas native who makes his offseason home in Houston, was arrested and taken to jail early Saturday morning and charged with resisting arrest, a misdemeanor. Police said he pushed an off-duty police officer who was working security at the club. An initial court appearance is set for Friday.

Peterson's attorney, Rusty Hardin, called the charge and the allegation that he shoved the officer "a total fabrication."

"He, in fact, was struck at least twice in the face for absolutely no legitimate reason, and when all the evidence is impartially reviewed, it will clearly show Adrian was the victim, not the aggressor," Hardin said in a statement.

Houston police declined comment on the details.

"It's now a matter for the courts," police spokesman Kese Smith said.

Hardin said the Bayou Club owes Peterson an apology after comments from a manager surfaced alleging that Peterson was drunk, unruly and disrespectful to security officers trying to get him to leave at closing time.

"He was only in that club for 30 to 40 minutes, was never objectionable to other patrons, and never physically resisted any police officer," Hardin said. "Adrian is extremely upset about these false allegations. These charges are totally at odds with the way he has conducted himself throughout his career, and he asks that his fans and the public at large reserve judgment until they hear all the facts."

Aside from the occasional speeding ticket, Peterson has been a model citizen ever since he was drafted by the Vikings in 2007. On a team that has often struggled with players getting arrested or causing trouble off the field, Peterson has taken pride in conducting himself with dignity and representing the franchise in a positive light.

Tour rider Di Gregorio arrested in doping probe

VILLIE-MORGON, France (AP)—The longtime problem of doping hit the Tour de France head on Tuesday when a French rider was arrested at his team hotel and suspended by his team.

Police made their move on the Tour's first rest day in arresting Cofidis cyclist Remy Di Gregorio, with judicial officials saying two other people suspected of supplying the Frenchman with banned substances were also arrested—one along with the rider in Bourg-en-Bresse, and another in Marseille.

The officials requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly as the investigation is ongoing.

Cycling's premier showcase event has long been dogged by doping scandals.

Two-time winner Alberto Contador of Spain is sitting out this year to serve a doping ban from the 2010 race, while seven-time Tour champion Lance Armstrong has been charged with participating in a vast conspiracy by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. The American has declared his innocence and is asking a federal court to block USADA's case.

Di Gregorio's arrest comes after an investigation that began last June and is led by the French police agency responsible for doping investigations, OCLAESP, and Marseille police.

"(The police) have followed Remy's actions for a good while," Cofidis manager Yvon Sanquer said at a news conference. "If I had ever been aware or anyone else had been aware, Remy's time with the team would have been over the very moment when we learned of it."

Sanquer, who took up his post two days before the start of the race, said he found out about the arrest from police just before the team went on a training ride in the morning.

Sanquer said Di Gregorio's teammates reacted with a mix of "anger and devastation ... when I explained the situation to them, it was painful for them. There were tears."

The 26-year-old Di Gregorio was in 35th place after Monday's ninth stage. The Marseille native turned pro in 2005 with French team Francaise des Jeux, and was once considered one of the most promising young French riders.

When the investigation began, Di Gregorio was riding for Astana. He won one stage in the 2011 Paris-Nice race with the Kazahk team. This season, he has had one stage win, in the Spanish Tour of Asturias in April.

Sanquer said he believed Di Gregorio, who recently became a father, "didn't understand the breadth of what he was doing and the seriousness of what he could be doing" if the accusations turn out to be true.

"Cycling is about beautiful moments, and there also very difficult ones. This is one," Sanquer said. "There are other things—sickness, injury ... it's part of a series of things that riders have to get through."

In the 2008 Tour de France, Cofidis pulled out of the race following Italian rider Cristian Moreni's positive test for testosterone.

In 2004, French police arrested then-Cofidis riders David Millar of Britain and Cedric Vasseur of France in another doping investigation involving the team and seized male hormones, EPO and amphetamines.

Another former Cofidis rider, Phillipe Gaumont, accused several of his teammates and the team doctor at the time of widespread doping.

AP

Yvon Sanquer, general manager of the Cofidis cycling team answers question of reporters following the arrest of one of the team's riders during a press conference on he rest day of the Tour de France cycling race in Saint Albain, north of Macon, France, Tuesday July 10, 2012.

Rashard Lewis decides to sign with Heat

MIAMI (AP)—Rashard Lewis has decided to join the Miami Heat, becoming yet another shooting option for the reigning NBA champions.

Agent Tony Dutt said the free agent forward and the Heat agreed to terms on Tuesday, and Lewis is expected to sign his contract Wednesday in Miami. Lewis' decision comes just four days after Ray Allen agreed to accept an offer from Miami.

Allen and Lewis were Seattle teammates for five seasons, from 2003 through 2007—and both figure to fit perfectly into Miami's plan to surround LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh with even more shooters who can stretch defenses.

Allen's 2,718 made 3-pointers are the most in NBA history, and Lewis ranks fifth among active players with 1,690 makes from beyond the arc.

Lewis will make the veteran minimum from Miami for this coming season, worth about $1.3 million. He's picking up another $13.7 million because the final year of his most recent contract—a $118 million, six-year pact—was bought out earlier this offseason by New Orleans, who acquired the 6-foot-10 forward in a trade with Washington and then waived him.

Allen and Lewis are both likely to be introduced by the Heat on Wednesday, once procedural matters like physicals and paperwork are completed. Teams may start signing their free agents when the league's moratorium officially ends at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday.

Slowed by left knee problems this past season, Lewis averaged 7.8 points in 28 games for Washington. For his career, he's averaged 16.1 points per game with Seattle, Orlando and Washington.

Lewis' numbers in field-goal percentage (.385), 3-point percentage (.239) and scoring this past season all were the second-lowest of his career. Only his rookie season of 1998-99, when he appeared in 20 games, was less productive.

Still, he was someone the Heat targeted early in free agency. Lewis met with the team this past weekend, had interest from several other clubs—New York and Atlanta included—before eventually deciding that Miami would be the best fit.

Lewis did not play after the All-Star break this past season, sitting out Washington's final 33 games.

NBA BRIEFS

Clippers sign Griffin to 5-year extension

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Clippers have signed All-Star forward Blake Griffin to a five-year contract extension that could be worth up to $95 million. The team announced the deal late Tuesday night. The deal could keep Griffin, who could opt out after four years, in a Clippers uniform until 2018. He will earn $7.2 million next season. Griffin averaged 20.7 points, 10.9 rebounds and 3.2 assists in 66 games last season, helping the Clippers to a 40-26 record—their first winning season since 2005-06 and their first playoff berth since then, as well. They beat Memphis in the first round, with Griffin averaging 18.0 points and 6.4 rebounds, before losing to San Antonio in the conference semifinals.

Smith agrees to return to Knicks

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Knicks are keeping another key member of their rotation with JR Smith deciding to re-sign. Smith's agent confirms the deal that was agreed to early Tuesday. Smith had declined a $2.5 million option for next season, because doing so meant he could earn slightly more. But the New Jersey native had hoped to return to the Knicks. Smith joined the team in February after playing in China during the lockout and averaged 12.5 points, right at his career average. The 6-foot-6 guard joins Steve Novak, who agreed to terms Monday, in returning to the Knicks. Both were reserves last season, but Smith could become a starter if the Knicks don't match an offer sheet Landry Fields plans to sign with Toronto. Deals can become official on Wednesday.

Source: Warriors trade Wright to 76ers

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Dorell Wright is getting another chance to start over and leaving behind another team that has more salary cap space in his absence. The Golden State Warriors agreed Tuesday to trade Wright to the Philadelphia 76ers for the rights to a player currently in Europe, a person familiar with the decision said. The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because teams can't announce any trades until the free agency moratorium ends Wednesday, said Golden State would receive Edin Bavcic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in return. The 76ers acquired Bavcic's rights in a trade with Toronto in 2006. The move frees up about $4 million in salary cap space for Golden State, which drafted small forwards Harrison Barnes of North Carolina seventh overall and Draymond Green of Michigan State at No. 35 two weeks ago to take Wright's place. The Warriors now have about $8 million to spend before going into the luxury tax.

Lakers owner Jerry Buss treated for dehydration

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles Lakers owner Jerry Buss is being treated at a hospital for dehydration. Lakers spokesman John Black confirmed Tuesday that Buss is in a local hospital, but says he is recovering and is expected to be released soon. No other details have been released. The hospitalization of the 78-year-old Buss was first reported by TMZ.com.

3 Armstrong associates get lifetime USADA bans

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—With Lance Armstrong digging in for a legal fight, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency issued lifetime sports bans Tuesday to three former staff members and consultants on the cyclist's winning Tour de France teams for drug violations.

Luis Garcia del Moral was a team doctor; Michele Ferrari was a consulting doctor; and Jose "Pepe" Marti (team trainer) worked for Armstrong's U.S. Postal Service and Discovery Channel squads. All had been accused by USADA of participating in a vast doping conspiracy on those teams during part or all of Armstrong's seven Tour victories from 1999-2005.

Armstrong also has been charged and has declared his innocence.

Several hours after USADA announced its sanctions against the others, Armstrong's attorneys refiled a lawsuit asking a federal judge in Austin to prevent the case against from going forward.

U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks had thrown out Armstrong's initial 80-page complaint Monday, but invited him to submit a new one that was shorter, more to the point and less about his career and personal battles with anti-doping officials.

Armstrong's attorneys refiled a 25-page suit arguing that USADA violates athletes' constitutional rights, that the agency doesn't have the jurisdiction to bring the charges and that it may have violated federal law in its investigation.

Armstrong wants the court to rule by Saturday, his deadline to either accept USADA's charges and sanctions or send his case to arbitration.

An Armstrong spokesman declined immediate comment on the USADA bans issued Tuesday.

Under USADA rules, Moral, Marti and Ferrari had until Monday to challenge the allegations against them in arbitration or ask for a five-day extension. If they did not respond, USADA could impose sanctions.

Although none lives in the United States, USADA says the ban blocks them from participating in any sport that falls under the World Anti-Doping Agency code.

"The respondents chose not to waste resources by moving forward with the arbitration process, which would only reveal what they already know to be the truth of their doping activity," said Travis Tygart, chief executive of USADA.

There's been no indication from USADA that any of the three men—who each received the agency's maximum punishment—is cooperating with investigators.

TOC golf tourney set for Aug. 4 and 5

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 17th Annual Tournament of Champions golf tournament is set for Aug. 4 and Aug. 5 at Laolao Golf & Resort.

The CNMI's premiere golf event is expected to be bigger than ever this year with exciting hole-in-one prizes and a chance to walk away with thousands of dollars worth of other prizes.

The entrance fee to participate in the two-day event is $175 per player, which includes admittance to the awards banquet held after the tournament at Laolao's The Grill Restaurant.

"Naturally, we appreciate the continued support of all of our regular players and encourage new players to turn out this year," said tournament director Ben Baubauta in a press release earlier this week.

Players can enter in the Championship, A, B, C, Senior, or Ladies flights, accordingly, where $500 cash goes to the winner of the Championship, A, B, C, and Senior divisions. Some $400 will be awarded to the runners-up, $300 for third place finishers, digital cameras go to fourth placers, and $100 Duty Free Shoppers gift certificates will be presented to the fifth place finishers. The lowest gross scores will determine the winners.

The Top 3 Ladies' gross finishers will receive $500, $400, and $300, respectively, with the Top 3 net score golfers being issued trophies.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Over $300,000 worth of prizes are at stake in the 17th Annual Tournament of Champions golf tournament set for Aug. 4 and August 5 at Laolao Golf & Resort.

Over $300,000 worth of prizes are at stake including hole-in-one prizes worth $50,000 up for grabs on the Laolao's east and west courses provided by AON Insurance, in addition to two brand new cars sponsored by Triple J Motors and Microl-Toyota.

An ace on the east course's hole No. 6 will award a year of free golf at Laolao; the closest to the pin winner on east's hole No. 15 will be awarded $1,000.

Since its inception, the TOC has donated over $500,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to the improvements of the tree-lined medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort, as well as to the revitalization of the Garapan special district.

In addition, the TOC has contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas; lighting the Saipan Beach Pathway; and most recently, beautifying the Port to Park Pathway.

"We are proud of our continued commitment to enhance the beauty of Saipan for our tourists and residents," stated Babauta.

He added, "It is the generous support of our golfers, sponsor and committee members that make this event possible."

Last year, Guam's Louie Sunga seized his third Championship Flight TOC victory in the past four years. He triumphed over 12 other golfers with a one-under 71 on the first day and finished Day 2 with a solid 74 for an overall low gross total of 145. Ju Lee came in second place by just a stroke.

Leina Kim (139) ruled last year's 22-player Ladies Flight, while Do Hyun Kim (160) was 2011's A Flight winner, beating a field of 21.

Japanese junior golfer Yoji Ozeki (158) defeated countryman Hisato Komatsu in sudden death to take the top prize in the B Flight, while Lawrence Camacho (164) bested five other C Flight contender. Barry Wilson (155) took the Senior Flight against 15 other competitors.

This year's TOC is fronted by platinum sponsors DFS Galleria, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. Gold sponsors include AON Insurance, Docomo Pacific, Microl, Y's Enterprises, Nike Golf, and Triple J Motors.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Ben Babauta at 483-2563.

MDX

From Page 28

plete 3-point play from Rainier Deleon Guerrero, 6:29 left on the clock.

SIP then quickly regained the upper hand off John Darag's back-to-back treys, 63-59, but those were its last field goals, as the team was limited to one free throw, courtesy of Herbert Maranan, in the final 5:22 of the game.

MDX/Mariana Resort, on the other hand, got 6 of its next 8 points from Eugene Manglona, whose banked running jumper from the baseline gave his team cushion, 67-64, 58.2 seconds left in the game.

SIP needed only a quick 2 to stay in the game, but Darag opted for a triple and airballed it. Adrian Palacios then hit a basket from the baseline, upping MDX's lead to 5, 69-64, while SIP missed two more 3-point attempts in the ensuing play and was forced to give up fouls to stop the clock.

After SIP was called for its fifth team foul in the last 8 seconds, Palacios canned a pair of charities to seal the come-from-behind win.

It was a sorry loss for SIP, which caught MDX/Mariana Resort flatfooted in the opening two minutes, leading at 8-0 after Maranan and Darag drained one triple each and Ralph Francisco escaped with a fastbreak layup.

MDX continued to get lost in the first period and was held to 5 points in the first six minutes of the game before recovering in the closing minutes to move within 12, 16-28. MDX coach Peter Crisostomo shuffled his players too much in the first period that they could not get into their rhythm, while SIP was on a zone, especially from downtown. SIP hit five triples, four of them came from Darag.

Darag was then neutralized in the second period and was held scoreless and his cold shooting rubbed off on his teammates, as the entire SIP crew was held to 8 points. Crisostomo still had his frequent player rotation in the second frame before sticking with Kevin De Leon, Manglona, Melvin Cadiang, Ezra Caro, and Frank Mettao in the last four minutes. De Leon went on to score 8 of MDX's last 10 points to cut the lead to 5 at the break, 31-36.

MDX tried to overhaul SIP's lead in the third period, but Sheen Metran and Maranan were there to keep the boat from shrinking, scoring 6 straight points in the closing minutes and nailing a triple, respectively. Metran and Maranan stepped up for Darag, who was scoreless anew in the third canto.

Darag momentarily regained his shooting touch midway in the fourth canto, but MDX was already catching up and in the end Darag and Maranan's baskets were not enough to save SIP from a monumental collapse.

Maranan and Darag were the only two SIP players who scored in the fourth canto, combining for 9 markers. In contrast, MDX drew baskets from Cadiang, Manglona, Deleon Guerrero, De Leon, and Palacios. Manglona paced MDX with his 18 points, while De Leon and Cadiang added 14 and 12, respectively. Darag had 18 markers for SIP.

In the first semis match, DYS/Bayani needed only a 21-8 start to break the game wide open and eliminate AON/Boholano.

DYS coasted to the semis win after limiting AON to no more than 8 points in three of the four quarters in the game. AON was held to another 8-point output in the second period to fall behind, 16-40, before having its best offensive showing in the third, nailing 16 points. Still DYS was comfortably ahead at the end of the third, 60-32, and took the 52-point win after AON scored only 4 points in the fourth canto.

First Game

DYS/Bayani 88 – Salem 14, Mariano 12, Aranda 12, Alegre 10, Mizer 7, De Guzman 7, Tudela 6, Aguilar 2.

AON/Boholano 36 – Capuyon 9, De Leon 8, Mendoza 6, Javier 6, Yap 5, Villagomez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-8, 40-16, 60-32, 88-36.

Second Game

MDX/Marianas Resort 71 – Manglona 18, De Leon 14, Cadiang 12, Palacios 6, Deleon Guerrero 6, Caro 4, Ecalnea 4, Del Rosario 3, Ano 2.

SIP/Barney's 64 – Darag 16, Francisco 13, Metran 12, Maranan 11, Dela Rosa 3, Sacramento 2, Vertudez 2, Moran 2, Devero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-28, 31-36, 49-55, 71-64.

ACES

From Page 28

with a two-RBI double in the first inning.

The D-9ers got a run back in the bottom frame from a base smash by B.J. Lizama, but the Aces pushed ahead, 3-1, in the second inning off a passed ball that scored leadoff man Jesus Iguel.

The D-9ers then pulled on a six-run tear in the third inning and went ahead, 7-3.

Chad Atalig, Andave Camacho, and Vince Castro all bagged RBIs, while Bob Lizama roped a single for two runs, a couple of walks, and some timely errors also helped fuel the surge.

The Aces regrouped and pulled within a run in the fourth inning off three hits. Juan Iguel and J.D. Dikito both delivered RBI base knocks.

Then after a quiet fifth inning, the Aces' top of the order trotted ahead, 12-7, in the sixth off three hits and some sketchy pitching.

Dikito cashed in on another RBI single and Juan Tenorio provided a two-RBI shot to the outfield. Three other runs came in off errors.

The D-9ers fought back and made it a one-run ballgame again with four runs off three hits in the bottom frame.

Three unearned runs came home early in the inning and were complemented by an RBI base smash by Mart Sablan that scored John Acosta.

Both teams came up empty in the seventh, but the Aces erupted with 11 runs in the eighth inning that put the mercy rule into effect.

The D-9ers kept it close through the majority of the match, but the Aces sensed exhaustion in its opponents' pitching core and jumped all over them late in the game.

The Aces cracked 11 hits and almost batted through its lineup twice.

Juan Tenorio was hit by a pitch to start the inning and was later driven in by Juan Iguel. Second batter Jesus Iguel reached just prior with a base hit and was escorted home with Juan Iguel by Saralu.

Juan Maratita delivered him home, while Dikito hit his way on before Maratita's at bat and scored off an error during Mike Iguel's turn at the plate.

He reached on a single, after which Charflie Wabol cleared the bases with a two-RBI base rip.

Derek Aughenbaugh was plunked and scored off errors, Jesus Iguel belted a triple and scored off an error, and Juan Iguel and Saralu reached on hits and were brought home by a two-RBI blast by Dikito before the D-9ers could get out of dodge. Dikito then struck out the side in the bottom frame to secure the win.

Juan Iguel batted 5-for-5 with two RBIs, five runs, and a base on balls. J.D. Dikito batted 4-for-5 with four RBIs and two runs. Saralu went 3-for-4 with four RBIs, three runs, and two base on balls.

D-9ers' Lawrence Dikito batted 2-for-3 with three runs, a base on ball, and a hit-by-pitch.

VETERANS

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Dan Stafford.

Midfielders Del Rosario and Lee are the youngest members of the team at 15, while defender Westphal is the most senior at 42.

On the women's side, Gabrielle Race is the youngest at 14. Other young blood on the team are Jeralyn and Jeraldine Castillo, Phalai Frink, Melody Johnson, Mikky Vargas, Alexa Vergara, and Marielle Gariguez. They will team up with veterans Katie Peters, Natalie Hill, Megan Herber, and Carrie Schuler. Completing the squad are goalkeepers Jhaneeka Atalig and Rachel Masga, defender Marilou Gariguez, midfielders Liezel Tiples and Lyvette Lacina, and forward Michelle Masga.

Joining the women's team are officials Luan Khen Koo, Wai Wo Lee, Jimmy Tang, Lalaine Pagarao, and Angie Ito. The men's side has coach Chikashi Suzuki, goalie coach Johann Noetzel, team manager Norman Del Rosario, and officials Jake Lee and Jershwin Angeles.

Both teams will announce their official 18-player rosters this weekend in time for the women's squad's departure for Guam on Sunday. The two squads will also have a mini camp before they leave. The women's team's camp will be from today to Saturday, while the men's will have their turn from Friday to Sunday and they will leave Saipan on Monday.

In Guam, the women's team will debut against the host on Tuesday and then will collide against Hog Kong next Thursday. All CNMI matches will be played at 4pm.

The men's squad's first game is against Guam, too, on Wednesday and the last will be versus Macau next Friday.

The top team in the men's and women's divisions will advance to Round 1 competition. The second round of the men's division will be played in Hong Kong with the host Chinese-Taipei and North Korea joining the qualifier. China will host the Round 1 competition for the women's division and will challenge the representatives of Chinese-Taipei and the winner in the Guam qualifier.

Details about the venues and participating nations for the 2013 EAFF East Asian Cup have yet to be announced.

GODFATHER'S

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three goals from Kris Kim and one from Ariel Jinang, but still the four goals were no match to Godfather's seven more. Tonuu added three more, Otsuka had a pair, and Duenas also made twin goals.

WOMEN'S
Mellow Yellow 5, Shirley's 5

In the first women's match, Shirley's Coffee Shop forced a draw against Mellow Yellow after breaking into the scoreboard in the second half.

Mellow Yellow surprised the favored Shirley's in the first half, leading at 3-0. Melanie Santos, Bernadette Horey, Maile Aldrich, and Mary Kay Alforos drilled one goal apiece for Mellow Yellow to threaten Shirley's with an upset win.

However, Mellow Yellow failed to keep its momentum in the second half, as it notched only one goal to settle for the draw. Angie Ito and Maica Aniana saved Shirley's with their three and two goals, respectively.

Xerox 9, Baked Girls 4

In the second game, Xerox downed Baked Girls for its fourth win in six assignments.

Manami Takodoro had a hat-trick for Xerox in the first half to lift her team to a 3-1 lead. Anne Padilla nailed the lone goal for Baked Girls in the first 30 minutes of play.

In the second half, Baked Girls failed to neutralize Takodoro, who drained four more goals to go with Patricia Coleman and Marleu Cook's one each.

Melissa Borja, Amanda Allen, and Padilla also scored for Baked Girls in a losing effort in the second half.

2012 Little League Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament

PHOTOS By
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

CNMI Big League All Stars ace pitcher Brian Camacho fields a chopper up the middle.

CNMI Senior All-Stars shortstop A.J. Lizama throws over to first after charging a ground ball in last weekend's 2012 Little League Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament at the Paseo Stadium in Hagatna, Guam.

CNMI Senior All-Stars slugger Khobby Kaipat unleashes a big swing.

CNMI Big League All Stars pitcher Joseph Palacios deals from the stretch.

CNMI Senior All Stars Ray Saralu checks the umpire for confirmation after making a sweet swipe tag at third base.

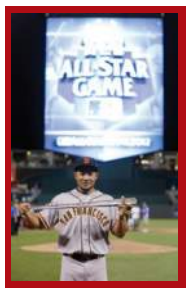
CNMI Big League All Stars first baseman Keoni Lizama covers the bag to keep Guam's runner in check.

The CNMI Senior All Stars celebrate after ousting Guam from the finals running.

CNMI Senior All Stars centerfielder Jonathan Villagomez runs to his teammates after tracking down the final out in their match against longtime rival Guam.

CNMI Big League All Stars' Leroy Regis pulls into third base after a big smash to left field.

CNMI Senior All Stars' Lancaster Secharmidal slides under the tag at third for a stolen base.



Giant blowout: NL routs AL in All-Star game

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Sports

Tour rider Di Gregorio arrested in doping probe

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MDX, DYS arrange title duel

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MDX/Mariana Resort avoided the upset axe of SIP/Barney's after pulling off a 71-64 victory in their semis game in the U20 division of the 2012 UFO Docomo Pacific Cup last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

SIP stunned the favored MDX/Mariana Resort in the first period, leading by as much as 17 points, 22-5, but collapsed in the homestretch to kiss its finals bid goodbye. MDX/Mariana Resort took the second finals berth and will be facing unbeaten DYS/Bayani in the winner take-all finale this Sunday at 4pm. DYS/Bayani cruised to the finals after an 88-36 demolition of AON/Boholano in the first semis match.

While DYS/Bayani had no trouble making it to the finals, MDX/Mariana Resort had to sweat a lot before surviving SIP and advancing to the title match. MDX played catch-up after a sluggish first quarter and finally grabbed the lead, 59-57, off an incom-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MDX/Mariana Resort's Melvin Cadiang goes up for an acrobatic shot against SIP/Barney's Eric Dela Rosa, left, and John Darag during the third quarter of their semis game in the UFO Docomo Cup last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Godfather's demolishes Shirley's

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Godfather's goalie catches the ball during their game against Shirley's Coffee Shop in the men's division of the SSS futsal league last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Godfather's was on target last Saturday, crushing Shirley's Coffee Shop, 17-4, in the lone men's game played in the 2012 SSS Summer Futsal League last Saturday night at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

The lopsided win improved Godfather's win-draw-loss record to 3-0-1, while Shirley's absorbed its second loss in three games.

Godfather's had the game in the bag as early as the first half when it went up, 10-0. Ropati Tonuu led Godfather's demolition of Shirley's scoring six goals. Dale Roberts added two, while David Duenas and Otsuka Masatoshi chipped in one apiece.

Shirley's broke its silence in the second half after drawing

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Aces beat D-9ers in barnburner, 22-11

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Aces' J.D. Dikito rears back for a big swing against Rep. Ray Yumul-D-9ers in their SML game last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Aces overcame the Rep. Ray Yumul-D-9ers, 22-11, in eight innings with an 11-run uprising in the eighth inning of Tuesday's Saipan Major League matchup held at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The win improved the Aces' win-loss card to 6-3, while the D-9ers are still in search of its first victory after eight tries.

Back on Monday, the Rep. Sylvester Iguel-Masters (1-7) forfeited its game to the IP&E-Shell-Fielders (4-5).

The Tan Holdings-Brewers and the Saipan Stevedore Company-Northern Yankees are tied atop the standings with identical 6-1 records, while defending champion St. Michael's Medical Response-Angels (5-3) rest in fourth place.

The Angels took on the Yankees last night at the Tan Ko Field and details will be released soon.

The season continues tonight at the Tan Ko at 6:30pm with the Brewers colliding with the Fielders.

Aces' Nokki Saralu got his team off to a promising start

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Veterans, youth make up national teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Men's and Women's Nationals competing in the preliminary round of the 2013 EAFF East Asian Cup have a mix of youth and experience.

In the 18-player preliminary roster of the CNMI Men's Nationals, veterans Nick Swain, Kirk Schuler, and Steve McKagan are included on the list.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members of the CNMI Men's Team perform drills during a training session at the Oleai Sports Complex yesterday.

These three players had already suited up for the CNMI team in previous men's competitions. Joining them are young guns Bo Barry, Lucas Knecht, Raphael Zapanta, Brian Lee, Kenneth Domingo, Enrico Del Rosario, and goalie Gregzon Fontanilla, who are all products of Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's youth leagues.

Rounding out the preliminary roster are various men's league mainstays like Eric Cooke, William Dunn, Dan Westphal, Peter Loken, Joe Miller, Arkie Reusora, Ruselle Zapanta, and goalie

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